

THE AMERICAN LEGION

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

March 1992

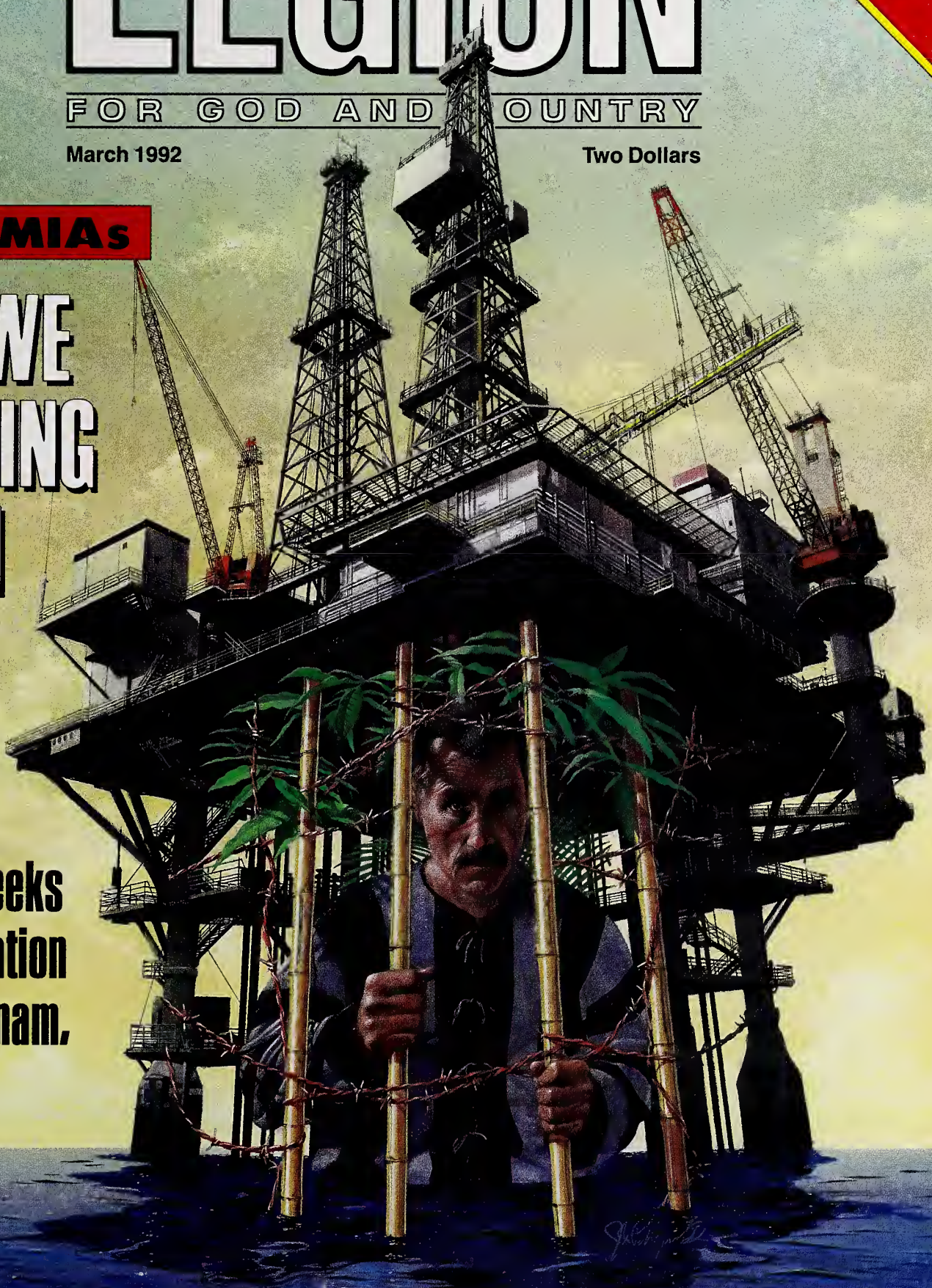
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1992
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P. 38

POW/MIAs

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The Magazine for a Strong America

Vol. 132, No. 3

March 1992

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COVER POW/MIAs: What happened to America's missing men from the Vietnam War? There are more questions than answers. See Page 22. Illustration by John Maggard.

THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 3.1 million members. These military-service veterans, working through more than 15,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youths.



22



36



40

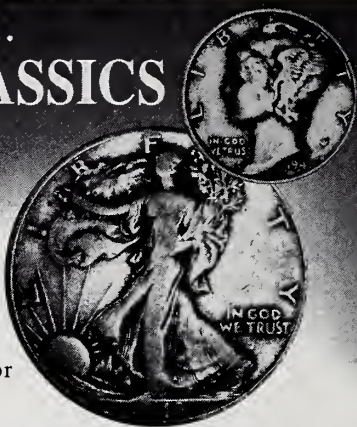


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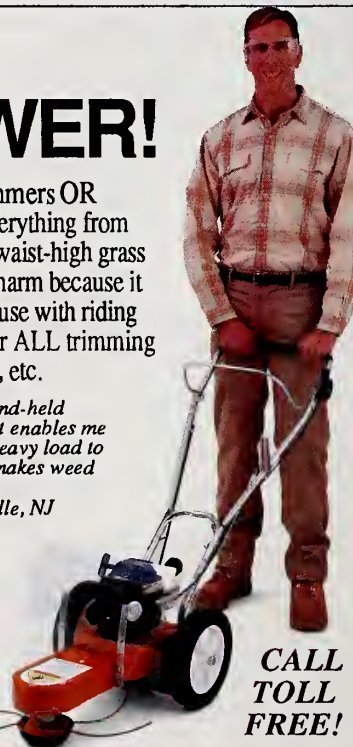
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REMEMBER WHEN YOU LEARNED THE TRUTH ABOUT EQUALITY?

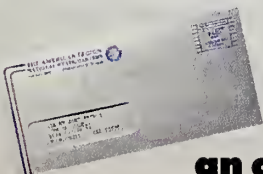


Once you have lain wounded in a muddy would-be grave, you learn a lot about equality. You don't refuse help based upon sex, race, religion or anything else.

That's one reason why membership in The American Legion has always been open to ANYONE with honorable wartime service. It's why women veterans had a vote in our organization before they had the right to vote in national elections.

It's also why we are aggressively supporting the addition of a statue of a woman at the Vietnam Memorial . . . and why our leadership includes veterans of virtually every race, color, creed and national origin ever to have served in our nation's defense.

As you renew your American Legion membership this year, think about this . . . every one of our three million members earned the right to belong. That is why together, we make up one of the strongest organizations in America. Be proud of your membership.



**Renew your membership today
. . . because doing nothing is not
an option.**



POW/MIAs

I read with interest the Commander's Message about POW/MIAs (December). We do, indeed, share a dream and a nightmare. And we must have a true accounting of these individuals. All of them.

Our government made a covenant with those individuals. If they are willing to fight and risk their lives for this country, our government should do all in its power to bring them home. The government has totally failed to keep its part of the covenant.

The hell with so-called national security. No more covering up. We have a national election coming up. Now is the time to force the issue. Demand answers. Damn it, bring them home.

*Edward J. Mealey
Janesville, Wis.*

I am dismayed that the Legion provided a forum to retired Army Col. Millard Peck and Earl Hopper ("Report from Phoenix," November), who have nothing constructive to offer on this important issue.

I served five years in the Defense Intelligence Agency Special Office for POW/MIA Affairs. For half of that time, I was chief of that office. Peck replaced me in July 1990.

After he "resigned" in 1991 he had ample opportunity to substantiate charges of conspiracy, interference and indifference. He had nothing to offer

other than gripes and complaints. If you took anything Peck said "to the bank," you would quickly be bankrupt.

Our missing comrades deserve better than the vacuous rhetoric and tired, unfounded claims of Peck and Hopper. Thankfully, the POW/MIA issue is being served by competent, dedicated people who will persevere and find answers long after Peck has become a small footnote.

*Joseph A. Schlatter Jr.
APO AP 96326-1817*

A very important article by the National Commander. All Americans should demand that our government bring home all our POW/MIAs, especially before the United States re-establishes diplomatic and economic ties with Vietnam.

*Phil Strandvold
Sheffield, Ala.*

I believe our State Department and Department of Defense purposefully avoid the POW/MIA issue because of money. It would cost a fortune to return these men to civilian life. It is simple to write them off and evade the issue.

*David L. Recob
Topeka, Kan.*

The Commander's Message was right on target, but far too gentle. Government policy on POW/MIAs must be

Please turn page



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Each month, the magazine asks readers to vote and voice their opinions on two questions. This month's questions:

Do you believe our government should make public all the information it has about the POW/MIA issue? (See page 22.)

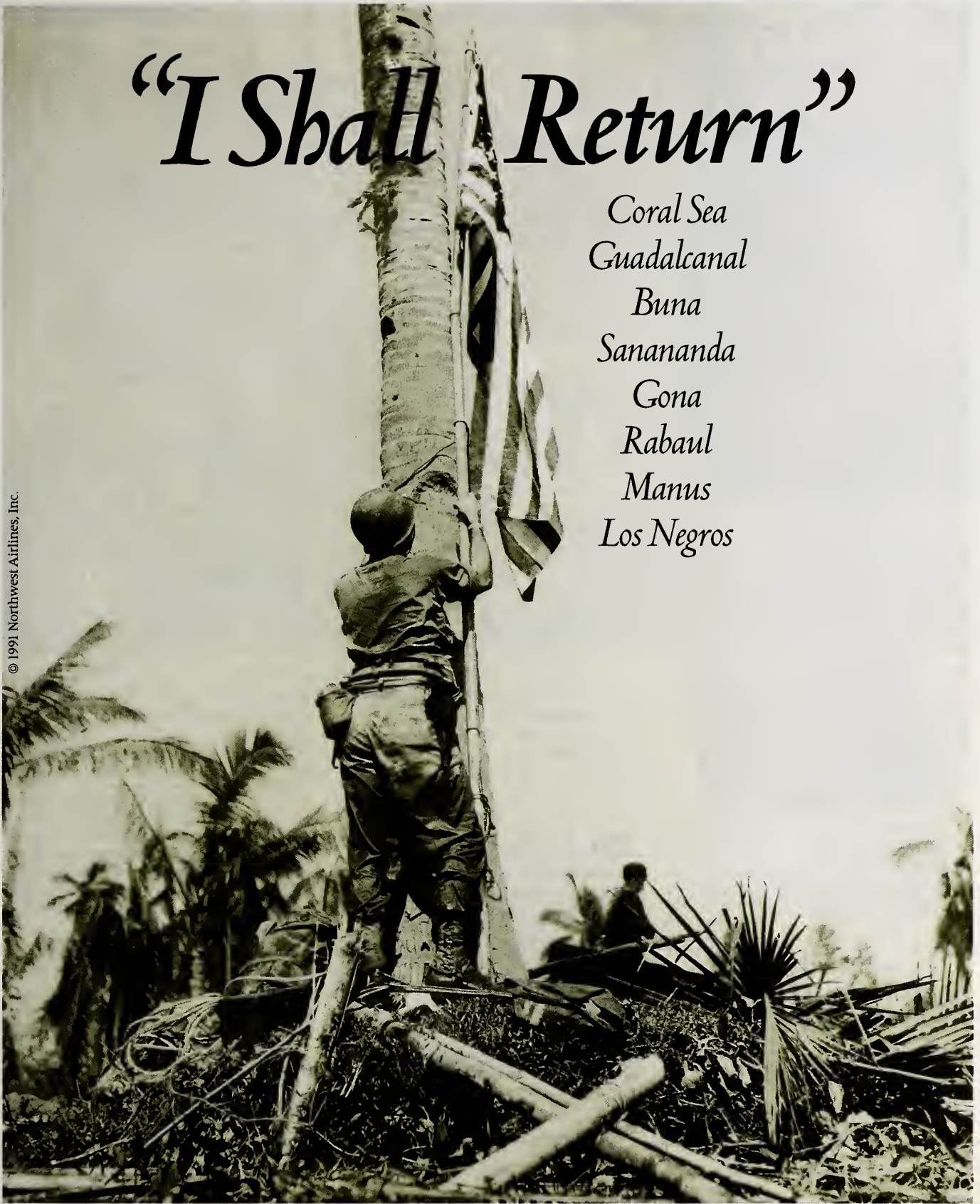
Should Congress approve the Johnston-Wallop Energy Bill? (See page 10.)


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reversed to state that the United States knows that there are live POWs in Vietnam, Laos and Russia. No normalization of relations or aid can be discussed until these men are returned.

I am angry and disgusted that our government has deserted its soldiers. We must protest this evil cover-up as strongly as we can.

*Gretchen B. Vanek
Pocatello, Idaho*

It is indeed sad that The American Legion is again being duped concerning the issue of whether there are POWs alive in Southeast Asia. There are no POWs being held in SEA. The likelihood of recovering identifiable remains on more than half the missing are extremely slim.

*Gerald A. Sands
Springfield, Va.*

Often forgotten are the many MIAs from covert wars in Laos and Cambodia—fighting men without dog tags and uniforms who participated in clandestine operations.

Yours truly, but mad as hell about the POW issue.

*Ed Williams
Port Clinton, Ohio*

Christmas Child

For better or worse, I am the subject of "A Christmas Child" (December). The response to the article has been overwhelming. I have heard from people all across the country, mostly from servicemen who were involved in my coming to the United States.

Of course, I was just a baby and have no memories of what occurred back then. People like Chaplain Edward O. Riley, Capt. John T. Hayward and my father, Dr. Hugh Keenan, and many others made it possible for me to come to the United States. I was just along for the ride.

To all the Korean War veterans involved, your kindness—then and now—I can only reciprocate but never repay.

*Dan Keenan
Ephrata, Wash.*

The article brought back many

memories of when I was a Marine returning from the front lines in 1952. My hat goes off to the crews of the hospital ship *Consolation*, carrier *USS Point Cruz* and of *ATS General Gaffney*. Their spirit made our Armed Forces great in the Korean War.

*Joe Pannick
Dunmore, Pa.*

Correct Chair

The article "A Grateful Nation" (September) should have identified John Steele as the chairman of the special committee that drafted the original GI Bill of Rights.

*Ralph E. Winkler
Lakeside, Calif.*

VA Rated

Thank you for the article "Understanding VA's Rating System" (December). I have waited years to acquire this knowledge. There is a bias and injustice in the way the government treats veterans. There must be many Joe Daleys around.

*Carmen S. Falzone
Everett, Mass.*

I have been a Service Officer in a small country Post for more than 30 years. The VA's rating system and priorities just blows my mind. It is really hard being a Service Officer these days because the system is not working for the real needy.

Joe Daley, I personally know what you have been through, but you do have some friends who care about your needs.

*James E. Pickel
Chillicothe, Ohio*

Honoring Maggie

The article on Martha Raye ("A Colonel Named Maggie," January) was wonderful. We love her so much.

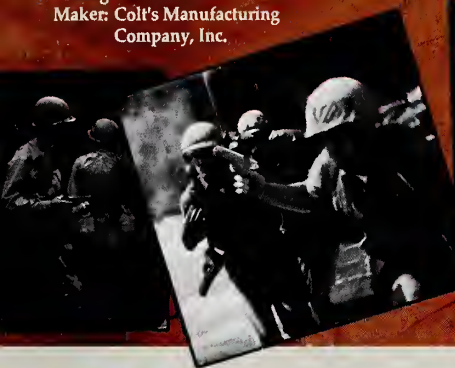
*Mary C. Leslie
Mishawaka, Ind.*

Maggie is truly an American heroine who should be honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. There are
Please turn to page 62

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T271

AMERICAN LEGION SUPPORTS NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM, *IF...*

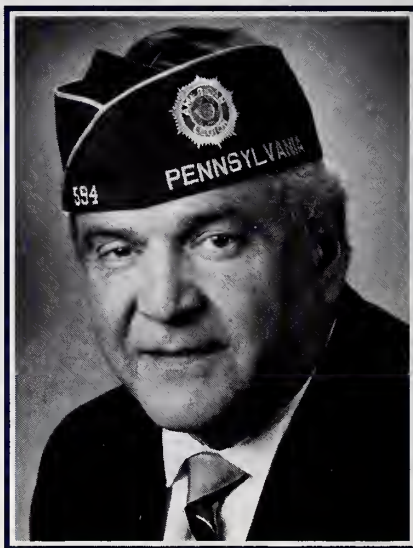
MISUNDERSTOOD, mismanaged and mislabeled as our country's "highest national priority," America's quest to repatriate its Vietnam POW/MIAs has been a failure. Nineteen years after President Richard Nixon declared that "...all of our courageous prisoners of war [have been] set free and [are] here back home in America," 2,267 American families still live in a twilight zone of anxiety and uncertainty. The war is over, but their loved ones have not returned. Their lives are on hold waiting for answers that may never come. America is at peace, yet they have no peace.

Our government wants to put Vietnam behind us and close that chapter of our history by normalizing relations with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. That is admirable, and The American Legion supports having diplomatic relations with all civilized nations. We were founded on the belief that world peace is possible, and that there should be a brotherhood of nations.

Just as we have rebuilt our fallen enemies in the past, we support the restoration of Vietnam, including normalization of trade and access to international financial aid. We want Vietnam returned to the community of nations as a civilized equal.

There were many tragic chapters in the Vietnam War. Brave men and women, on both sides, laid down their lives in the pursuit of objectives that were often unclear. Our nation was torn asunder by the consciences of those who supported and those who protested the war. Our conduct of foreign policy was placed on a slippery slope of uncertainty that persists to this day.

Perhaps, most tragic of all, the war that the government did not then have the will to win, it does not now have the courage to end honorably. The only way



Nat'l Cmdr. Dominic D. DiFrancesco

to end it honorably is by insisting on a full accounting for our missing before even considering granting full diplomatic recognition to this former enemy.

Seventy-three percent of the American people, according to a November 1991 Gallup Poll, do not believe that Vietnam has rendered a full and accurate accounting of our POW/MIAs. Seventy-three percent do not believe that Vietnam has honored the one condition set down nearly 20 years ago as a prerequisite of diplomatic recognition. Yet, our government is now pushing for normalization while giving only lip service to repatriation of our POW/MIAs.

What message will this send to those who risked their lives as servicemen and women in Vietnam? What legacy does this accord to those who died in Southeast Asia? What signal does this give to our active-duty military who, today, are asked to lay their lives on the line? What does this say to the world and to us about the character of our nation?

If we now surrender all of our

leverage against Vietnam—diplomatic relations, lifting of the economic embargo, and access to international financial aid—in the name of political expediency, without rock-solid agreements that provide for a full accounting of American POW/MIAs, how will their families ever again know peace of mind?

That is the burden of our argument. We do not want to stand in the way of economic progress. We do not wish to keep international markets closed to American business. We do not seek to block the exploration of Vietnam's rich oil deposits. But we do demand that our nation not abandon its honor in order to accomplish these objectives.

No, Vietnam has not dealt with this issue honestly, but I suspect that our government hasn't either. This issue contains a special report that strongly suggests the possibility of inaction, ineptitude and dishonesty by our own policy makers in the handling of this issue.

There is evidence that our government has for nearly 20 years been more interested in classifying evidence than in using it to find our missing men. There is evidence that our own Defense Intelligence Agency has adopted an unnecessarily rigid "acid test" in its procedure to distill the number of POW live-sightings to "believable" reports, and has classified numerous documents that would, perhaps, bring some solace to the families of the missing. There is evidence that our own Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii (CIL-HI) has used methods to identify the remains of returned servicemen that are professionally questionable. And there exists at least one official National Security Council memorandum that suggests that at least some government officials didn't, and perhaps still don't, take the hunt for America's missing seriously.

Despite our deplorable history of
Please turn to page 60

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SHOULD CONGRESS APPROVE THE JOHNSTON-WALLOP ENERGY BILL?

Sen. Bennett Johnston, D-Louisiana

The U.S. Senate will soon debate whether we should have a national energy policy. Having no policy, or an inadequate one, means becoming even more reliant on the Middle East, where 65 percent of the world's oil reserves lie.

Our conquest of Iraq demonstrates that, in the Middle East, even victory is a quagmire. Saddam Hussein still rules Iraq because we dared not give Iran the upper hand.

Yet, unless we act to prevent it, we will in about 20 years be importing roughly 70 percent of the oil we consume. At what level of dependence will America find itself, like the addict who dares not provoke his suppliers, unable to risk alienating a future Saddam Hussein?

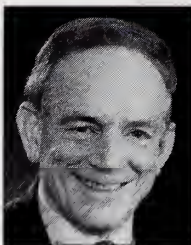
The Johnston-Wallop bill S. 1220, supported by President Bush, can help free America from that kind of dependence. It recognizes that our energy problem will not be solved solely through the "soft path" of conservation initiatives, nor solely through the "hard path" of energy production, but through a comprehensive and balanced policy embracing both these philosophies.

The case for conservation is clear. Until recently, energy analysts presumed that fuel efficiency in new cars would continue to rise. But for the last three years, new car efficiency has actually trended downward, dipping last year to its 1985 level. Reversing the downward trend in car and truck fuel economy is a critical part of any energy policy.

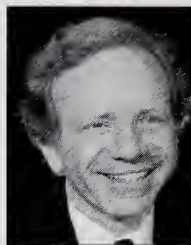
As for oil production, America is more heavily drilled than anywhere else on earth, and production is declining. The only new areas left for exploration are in Alaska and offshore. Yet some interest groups refuse to agree even to confirming the existence of oil there, much less to producing it.

Clearly, a balanced national energy policy must include numerous planks on energy conservation, alternative fuels and domestic energy production. It also must include appropriate safeguards for protection of the environment and business interests. Developing such a policy will, of course, require compromise, but surely compromise is preferable to the alternative. To say no to compromise on a national energy policy is to say yes to continued reliance on the Middle East for the lifeblood of our economy. ☐

YES



Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman, D-Connecticut



NO

Senate bill 1220, the Johnston-Wallop energy bill, has the fingerprints of "Big Oil" all over it. Instead of being a blueprint for an energy efficient, energy independent America, S. 1220 is instead a blueprint for higher consumer prices and bigger profits for the oil industry. It does little to help us break our oil habit; rather,

it proposes to increase our oil dependency by opening up an untouched wilderness area to oil industry exploration. And it ignores one of the most important steps we can take to save energy and money—requiring auto companies to make cars that get better gas mileage.

We need a national energy policy if we are to promote economic growth at home and our defense interests abroad. The Gulf War proved how sensitive the price of oil worldwide is to political changes. Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which S. 1220 seeks to do, would not make us less dependent on foreign oil, and would not protect us from future oil price shocks. It also makes little economic sense.

Consider this: At most, there are 3.2 billion barrels of oil in the Arctic Refuge, if there is any at all. That's about six months' supply. Compare that to the 1 billion barrels of oil we would save each year if we increased the efficiency of cars up to 40 miles per gallon. Given the high cost of drilling, and the current price of oil, it's also unlikely that oil companies are even willing to gamble on the Arctic Refuge right now. Simply put, S. 1220 won't solve our energy problems at all.

What we need is an energy bill that allows us to use the Strategic Petroleum Reserve as a buffer against big oil price swings—that encourages the private and public sectors to switch to energy efficient technology, like fuel cells, solar power, and advanced building, lighting and heating techniques—that requires cars to get more miles out of a gallon of gasoline and that promotes research into new ways to generate power without resorting to expensive, finite resources like oil.

America needs an energy policy for its future, not an energy bill mired in the past. We need an energy policy that puts consumers first, not Big Oil. And we need an energy policy that makes us less, not more dependent on oil itself. ☐

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U.S.-Hanoi Ties

The United States is moving closer to normalization of relations with Hanoi, despite the failure to get a full accounting of American POW/MIAs. The State Department lifted a ban on U.S.-organized travel to Vietnam and was prepared to ease up on travel restrictions on Vietnamese diplomats in the United States, before the FBI objected. If the U.S. trade embargo is lifted, veterans groups such as the National Vietnam Veterans Coalition are prepared to boycott U.S. companies that do business with Hanoi.

U.S. POWs In USSR?

Some congressmen are expected to strongly press for legislation that would provide foreign aid to the Commonwealth of Independent States, the former Soviet Union, contingent on receiving detailed information about Americans being held against their will there—including Vietnam POWs. Hearings conducted by the new Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs will delve into the issue of U.S. servicemen transported to the former USSR and are expected to give the legislation a needed boost.

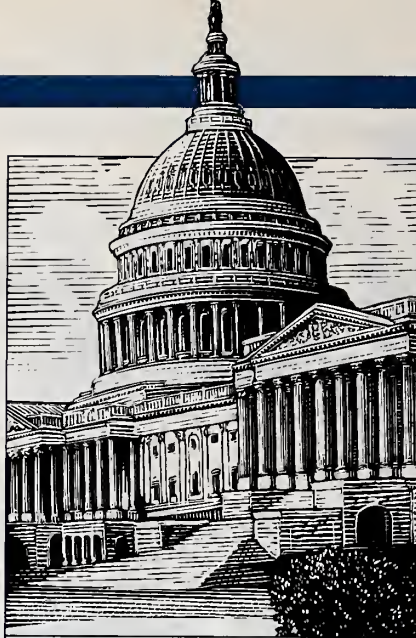
Demands for a full accounting are coming not only from veterans groups but from journalists who covered the 1983 Soviet shoot down of Korean Airliner 007. Some believe that there were actually survivors, despite Soviet denials. Although the Soviets recovered that flight's black boxes, they were never released. It is believed that the new Russian government wants to resolve this controversy.

Another source of information could be the many Soviet Jews that have emigrated to Israel. Avraham Shifrin, who worked in the USSR's Ministry of Defense and now heads the Jerusalem based Research Center for Prisons in the USSR, says his sources confirm that Congressman Larry McDonald, a passenger on Korean Airliner 007, and others, survived the crash.

The American Defense Institute, headed by former POW Eugene "Red" McDaniel, has extended its reward of up to \$2.4 million for the return of live U.S. POWs in Southeast Asia to include U.S. POWs in the former USSR.

Meanwhile, POW/MIA activists have

Washington-based Cliff Kincaid writes for Human Events and other publications.



WASHINGTON WATCH

By Cliff Kincaid

been very encouraged by the Pentagon's apparent change of policy on the POW/MIA issue. Assistant Secretary of Defense Carl W. Ford now says the agency will consider the possibility that Americans have been held in the former Soviet Union. Sources report that the Pentagon has already hired a think tank to comb over Soviet records for any references to Americans held captive.

Women Under Study

The new Presidential Commission on Women in the Armed Forces is expected to ask Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney to temporarily lift all restrictions on women in combat and conduct a test to determine if female warriors can handle certain military jobs. But opponents are expected to argue that such a test would be misleading without real combat conditions.

Even though the commission will not submit its study until after the November 1992 presidential election, its work has already become politicized. The final bill establishing the commission emphasized the need for having members with combat experience and urged the appointment of those linked to women's issues or feminist causes.

The composition of the commission was the subject of intense political pressure as an ad hoc group, the Coalition for Military Readiness, lobbied for

the appointment of individuals unsympathetic to women in combat. The coalition is headed by Elaine Donnelly, a former member of the Pentagon-based Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS). Donnelly argues that readiness and morale are being adversely affected by the integration of women into the military. Sounding the alarm, she made use of comments by Vice Adm. Roger F. Bacon, assistant chief of naval operations for submarine warfare, who said that, despite space problems, female crew members aboard submarines were "a distinct possibility" in the 1990s if present trends continue.

Last November, the Congress voted to repeal laws banning women from flying combat aircraft. Nevertheless, further efforts to lift restrictions are on hold pending the commission's work.

Democratic Nominee

Although predicting trends and events is a risky business, one highly regarded analyst, Marvin Cetron, president of Forecasting International, predicts Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton is likely to be the Democratic presidential nominee. He reasons that the Democrats will go with a conservative southerner so as not to lose the South to Bush.

Cetron, whose business is in demand by private and governmental organizations, also predicts: a "booming year" economically; a deal between the White House and Congress to cut the capital gains tax rate—provided the money goes for investment and job creation; a new health care system in which all levels of government contribute to a pool for the uninsured; and a diversion of defense spending to funding improvements in infrastructure.

U.S. Advisers For KGB

Despite headlines last year highlighting Boris Yeltsin taking control of the Soviet intelligence service, U.S. advisers recently counseled members of the Russian parliament on how to exercise control over the KGB's internal security and intelligence functions.

In the past, the KGB would send a memo announcing its budget, say Russian sources. Now, new structures and committees have to be established to fund, authorize and monitor the once highly secret KGB. It is expected to take several months if not a year to get the necessary controls in place. □

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HISTORY LIVES

IT THEREFORE astonishes me, sir, to find this system approaching so near perfection as it does. Thus I consent, sir, to this Constitution," pronounced Benjamin Franklin as he calmed the heated debates during the drafting of the U.S. Constitution in 1787.

Those historic words, part of the Founding Fathers Exhibit, greet visitors and guests touring The American Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis.

Benjamin Franklin is one of 41, 20-inch tall, realistically detailed figures in the exhibition, 10 of which are animated. Together they give visitors a glimpse of what it looked and sounded like at the beginning of our nation more than 200 years ago.

The Founding Fathers Exhibit is the most recent addition to the Emil A. Blackmore Museum at the Legion headquarters. The exhibit was donated by Francis B. Messmore, president of Messmore & Damon, Inc., a theatrical scenery and properties firm in New York City. Messmore is Post Commander of the Advertising Men's Post 209 and a 46-year member of the Legion.

The exhibit, originally created for *Life Magazine*, was displayed in the Time & Life Building exhibit center in New York City in 1962 and again in 1969.

The centerpieces of the exhibition are two dioramas.

One shows five of the founding fathers, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston and Benjamin Franklin, writing the Declaration of Independence in 1776. We see them at Thomas Jefferson's quarters on the second floor of a brick house at Seventh and Market Streets in Philadelphia, complete with fireplace, hard wooden chairs and a replica of a clock made by David Rittenhouse, the famous colonial clock maker.

Each figure moves and is synchronized with an audio tape recreating their discussions about separating from England.

The second and, at 22-feet in width, the largest diorama, depicts America's earliest leaders hammering out the U.S. Constitution at Philadelphia's Independence Hall 11 years later. Five of the 36

There also are reproductions of paintings of the founding fathers, the first great seal of the United States and even a recruiting poster from the Revolutionary War.

Several groups from Central Indiana have already learned of the display. Boy Scout Troop 621 sponsored by American Legion Post 252 of Greenwood, Ind., was one of the first to see the display after its arrival at the Legion's headquarters.

"I was impressed," said Life Scout Matthew Good. "Other Scouts should see it. They can use the information for their citizenship requirement."

Nine-year-old Seth Good, a first-year Webelo Cub Scout, said: "It was neat. I liked it a lot. It talked about the Presidents and the flags. It went along with our school stuff pretty well."

Joe Hovish, National Headquarters librarian and museum curator, expects that once teachers become aware of the display, school groups will also want to see it.

"We are in the process of producing pamphlets geared to the various education levels of school children who will visit the display," Hovish said. "We want to make sure we have something ready for the students, something they can use when they go back to their classrooms."

Meanwhile, word of the founding fathers display is spreading throughout the area.

Inquiries have been received from schools, Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops, and senior citizens' groups.

The exhibit's ability to make history come alive is what caught the fancy of Donald Good, Troop 621 committee chairman. "I was really impressed with the detailed facts and the accuracy of the display. It told a lot about the people," he said. "It took names and made them seem more like people, rather than just someone you read about in a book." By David Nixon □



ON DISPLAY—Librarian Joseph J. Hovish checks out the Legion's new Founding Fathers Exhibit.

figures rise in speech to debate the form of their new government.

Also part of the exhibition are reproductions of 10 historic flags that flew over the early colonies. Probably the most recognizable are the Don't Tread on Me, and the Pine Tree flags.

Photographic copies of three 10-foot oil paintings show a statue of George III being toppled July 9, 1776, in New York City after the Declaration of Independence was read; the Sept. 23, 1779 North Sea battle between the Bon Homme Richard and the Serapis; and George Washington's victory at Trenton, N.J., Dec. 26, 1776.

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• other side.

By Fran McGovern

JUST the idea of negotiations can cause cold sweats. That's because when most of us think of bargaining "It's high stakes, there's table-pounding, it's your worst nightmare of a used car salesman," says Michael Schatzki, whose New Jersey-based Negotiation Dynamics teaches executives how to haggle. "And we jump to

Free-lance author Fran McGovern often writes on business subjects.

the conclusion that if that's negotiating, then I don't — and won't — do it."

Like it or not, however, none of us can sidestep bargaining. It's a daily staple in our lives. "You're negotiating with your children when they're allowed to do something when they've finished their homework. It goes on with wife and husband, employee and employer. You may ask for a better seat at a restaurant, a better price at a hotel, some additional service or terms when you purchase something," says Forrest H. Patton, author of *Force of Persuasion*.

"A common mistake," says Schatzki, "is that many of us are in a negotiation but don't know it." Take a new job without recognizing the terms can be bargained, get "bumped" from an airplane without fine-tuning the offer, buy a home without haggling and, odds are, "you're not getting the best deal," says Schatzki, who wrote *Negotiation: The Art Of Getting What You Want*.

Mind you, Schatzki isn't of the school that believes everything is negotiable. "Try it with milk at the supermarket," he quips. But, he goes on, "Most of the time, negotiating is possible. Whenever the other party says 'I want,' ask yourself if something else would be acceptable to them. Do that and you'll find that much of what you've taken for

granted can, in fact, be negotiated."

We may negotiate, but not necessarily well, say experts who readily identify these common blemishes in our bargaining.

• **Lack of persistence** is Herb Cohen's candidate for a chief failing. "Most people," says the author of *You Can Negotiate Anything*, "present something to the other side and if the other side doesn't 'buy' it right away, they shrug and move on to something else. Learn to hang in there."

• **"Going in too low"** is Patton's must-avoid: "The foremost mistake that most negotiators make is having too low an expectation." Stroll into a car dealership and offer to pay sticker price and, chances are, you'll get that deal.

But, goaded by the barest bargaining, the salesman would have tossed in a few "deal sweeteners" like a free CD player or more for your trade-in. "To be successful in negotiating," Patton urges, "push your expectancy level up."

• **Lack of research** is another chronic failing. "Going into the bargaining, the more you know about the other party and his pressures, the better you're apt to come out," says Schatzki.

Often we do just the opposite, however. When the car salesman sits across the table ready to write the contract it dawns on us that a bargaining context is afoot and, by then, it's too late to research the best auto buys. "Planning is 50 percent of a successful negotiation," says Schatzki.

Avoid just these goofs and that's a big step, but successful negotiating takes one more bit of advance spadework, says Schatzki. "If you haven't considered the worst and best cases, you can conclude a negotiation, walk out, and only later realize you've given away the store."

For instance, say you are job hunting. You've researched the market and also have come to grips with your financial realities.

Your worst case—Least Acceptable Settlement(LAS), in negotiator's
Please turn to page 63

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NARCO-TERRORISM

By Robert McGarvey

IN TODAY'S Chicago, the violence eclipses the bloodshed of the Al Capone era. In August alone, 120 people were murdered on city streets, mainly in drug-connected shoot-outs. "It's becoming much more violent,"

Mayor Richard M. Daley told reporters. "It's becoming like Colombia."

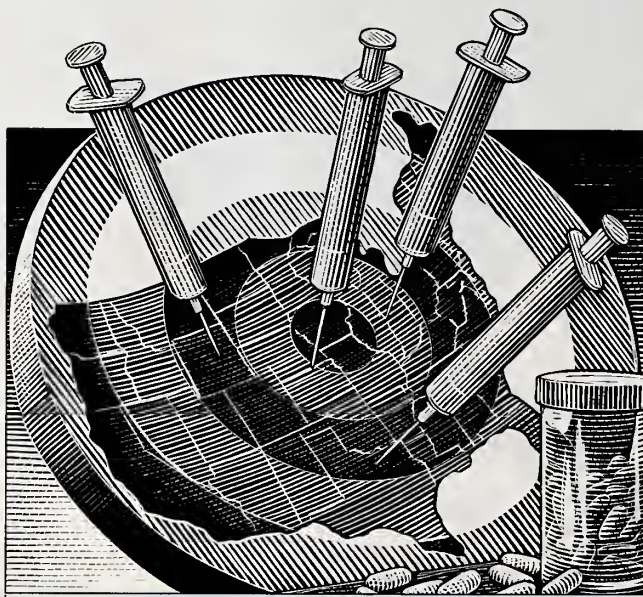
But it's not just big cities which are staggering under the burdens of narcotics. The same plague afflicts tiny Oroville, Calif., population, 10,000, where the local district attorney decided to send an emphatic message by putting a narcotics investigator behind the wheel of a Corvette that had been seized from a drug dealer. His message was heard, but the response was louder—the Corvette was fire-bombed. Then the D.A.'s home was sprayed with bullets. "This is not Colombia," angrily proclaimed District Attorney Mike Ramsey.

Oroville and Chicago aren't alone; the United States is hip-deep in a narcotics crisis. At a minimum, 5.7 million Americans suffer from serious drug problems. Meantime, although cocaine and marijuana use appear to be dropping, heroin consumption is rising fast. "Obviously, the problems remain intolerably large," says David Tell, the deputy chief of staff in the White House's drug policy office.

Nobody disputes our drug problems. But some say "there are key questions to ask about how we got into this sorry

Robert McGarvey is a Los Angeles-based free-lance writer and frequent contributor to this magazine.

Terrorists need drugs. Pushers need muscle. Hand in hand, they undermine nations for profit and power.



DEADLY AIM—America is narco-terrorists' chief target because of its wealth and pro-democratic politics.

state," says national security consultant Joseph Douglass of Washington, D.C. Did the drug plague just happen as a by-product of larger shifts in values? Several investigators now claim America's drug plague is in fact no accident. Says Douglass, "The United States was targeted as a matter of political policy by drug traffickers."

There is a "partnership," adds New York-based journalist Rachel Ehrenfeld, "between international drug trafficking organizations, who sometimes are state sponsored, and international terrorist groups and states." Their chief target, says Ehrenfeld, is the United States, both because of its wealth and

its ranking as the "main enemy for the Marxist ideologue and other anti-democratic forces."

Douglass claims recent changes in the governments of communist nations have not altered the kinship between drug traffickers and terrorists. "If anything, terrorist involvement in narcotics will deepen. They need the money." Rep. Lawrence Coughlin, vice chairman of the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control, seconds that warning. "The relationship between narcotics trafficking and terrorist insurgencies will accelerate with fading Soviet support. An increasing number of groups, from South America to the Middle East to Asia, have learned methods of financing their activities either through dealing drugs directly themselves or by inserting themselves into the drug-trafficking process as middlemen."

The Evidence

The marriage between terrorism and drug trafficking is a natural one, claims Ehrenfeld, who makes the case at length in her book, *Narco-Terrorism*. "Drugs are a source of revenue to support the activities of terrorist organizations," she explains.

For proof, listen to Medellin cartel lieutenant Carlos Lehder, who used a 1985 appearance on Spanish television to declare, "Ours is a revolutionary fight against the United States. Cocaine," he added, "is the Latin American atomic bomb." Was that bombast, or an accurate account of Lehder's politics?

Lehder, a heavy cocaine user now serving a life sentence in a U.S. prison, cannot necessarily be taken at face value. But it is known that, over a several year period, Lehder, as well as other Colombian drug traffickers, fun-

Please turn page



Dusty Rose



Turquoise



Apricot



Lapis



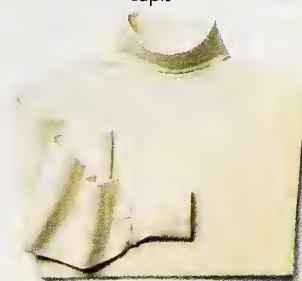
Navy



Red



Black



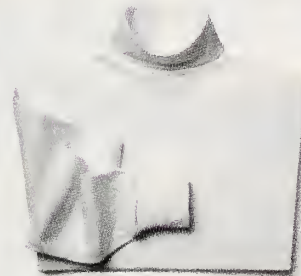
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neled cash into M-19, a terrorist group responsible for a flamboyant assault on Bogota's Palace of Justice that resulted in over 100 deaths, including 11 supreme court justices. Additionally, M-19 "performed chores for the traffickers; guarding their jungle [air] strips, for example, and carrying out occasional contract killings, including at least one in Miami," report British journalists Paul Eddy, Hugo Sabogal and Sara Walden in their book, *The Cocaine Wars*.

More evidence is found in Peru, where the Shining Path for many years has mounted a well-funded guerrilla opposition to the democratic government. There is no secret about where Shining Path's cash comes from—Peru's Upper Huallaga Valley, where as much as half of the world's cocoa, cocaine's base, is grown.

In the Upper Huallaga, a western diplomat told *The Washington Post*, Shining Path's control is complete. It "runs the towns, the schools, the clinics." The diplomat added that distinctions between drug traffickers and guerrillas couldn't be drawn. "You might be talking about the same person. One day he might be wearing his guerrilla hat and the next day wearing his drug trafficker hat."

That's Latin America. However, is there evidence showing narco-terrorists targeting U.S. interests? History bristles with cases of communist leaders advocating just that. China's Mao tse-Tung, for instance, said that "opium should be regarded as a powerful weapon." In 1963, Khrushchev echoed that sentiment when he said "deception and drugs are our first two strategic echelons in the war with capitalism." Similar statements came from Todor Zhikov, first secretary of Bulgaria's Communist Party in 1964. "The United States is the main target because they are our worst enemies; it is simple to move drugs into the United States, and there is an unlimited supply of money there."

Threats go beyond words, according to Douglass, who backs his claims with testimony provided by Czech Gen. Major Jan Sejna, who defected to the United States in 1968. As reported in his book, *Red Cocaine*, Douglass says that some 30 years ago the Soviet Union formally opened training centers to teach theory and practice of drug trafficking to selected operatives, mainly drawn from Third World countries. "As many as 25,000 operatives have grad-

uated from these centers. They know their business and we can see their results everywhere," says Douglass.

Look only at Cuba, says Douglass. "The evidence of Cuba's involvement in drugs to undermine the United States is unmistakable," a fact underlined by a 1982 U.S. indictment for drug running of four of Fidel Castro's aides. Castro himself admitted Cuba's narcotics links in 1989 when he arrested high ranking Gen. Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez on drug charges. While Sanchez was executed, some experts say that was mere show. "Castro's public stance was one of disgust and dismay with those involved in drug activities, yet even as the Sanchez

It is no coincidence that so many of the U.S.'s enemies engage in drug trafficking.

case was unfolding, business went on as usual," reports journalist Ehrenfeld.

Nor do profits alone explain Cuba's trafficking. "While money is always present as an obvious motivation, the political dimension, specifically political warfare against the United States, is even more important than money," says national security expert Douglass, who points to testimony from Cuban Maj. Jose Rodriguez, an intelligence officer who defected to the United States in 1987. Said Rodriguez, "Drugs are considered to be the best way to destroy the United States. By undermining the will of American youth, the enemy is destroyed without firing one bullet."

Nor is Cuba the only state to consciously employ narcotics as a weapon against the United States, according to many experts. For example, Ehrenfeld reports that Bulgaria has long engaged in swaps of weapons for drugs, primarily heroin, with Middle Eastern governments and terrorist groups.

Upshots of this trade, says Ehrenfeld, are that Bulgaria "has helped poison the lives of hundreds of thousands of Americans and Europeans. It helped feed a war of savage terrorism that nearly brought down Turkey, a key NATO ally."

Douglass also points to links of narcotics trafficking between several Middle Eastern states and organizations. Among them are Syria, Iran and the PLO, as well as several Asian states, including China and Vietnam. "It is no coincidence that so many U.S. enemies engage in drug trafficking," says Douglass.

As worrisome as the direct assault on the United States by narco-traffickers, according to Douglass, is the fact that drug-bred corruption has substantially undermined many Latin American neighbors, namely Mexico, Bolivia, Colombia and Peru.

Much of the same concern has been voiced by former U.S. Customs Commissioner William von Raab. "Our southern border is fast becoming what South Florida was like. I personally do not see the difference between a drug smuggler and a terrorist, says von Raab. "Cocaine is wreaking as much havoc in our country as any terrorist bomb ever could."

The Skeptics

Not all authorities agree that terrorists have purposely employed narcotics to undermine the United States. While the evidence may be emotionally powerful, they say, it is fragmentary and relies on dated testimony from defectors. Robert Kupperman, a terrorism expert with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., offers this opposing view: "Drug trafficking isn't political. It's a business, a large business."

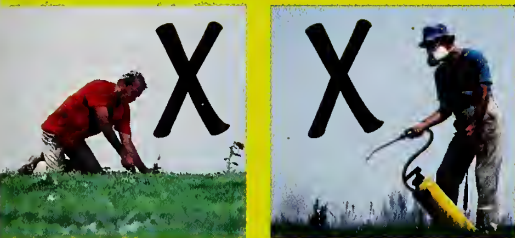
Frances Mullen, former head of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), also is a doubter. "I don't see a communist conspiracy. It's not left wing or right wing. It's just the money," he says.

Nonetheless, even the firmest skeptics concede that "there clearly have been accommodations made among terrorists, drug traffickers and some governments," says Kupperman, the co-author of *Final Warning*. "Some drug traffickers unquestionably are in part politically motivated; for instance, Assad's Syria and its heroin and hashish businesses. The same can be said of Iran."

Please turn to page 63



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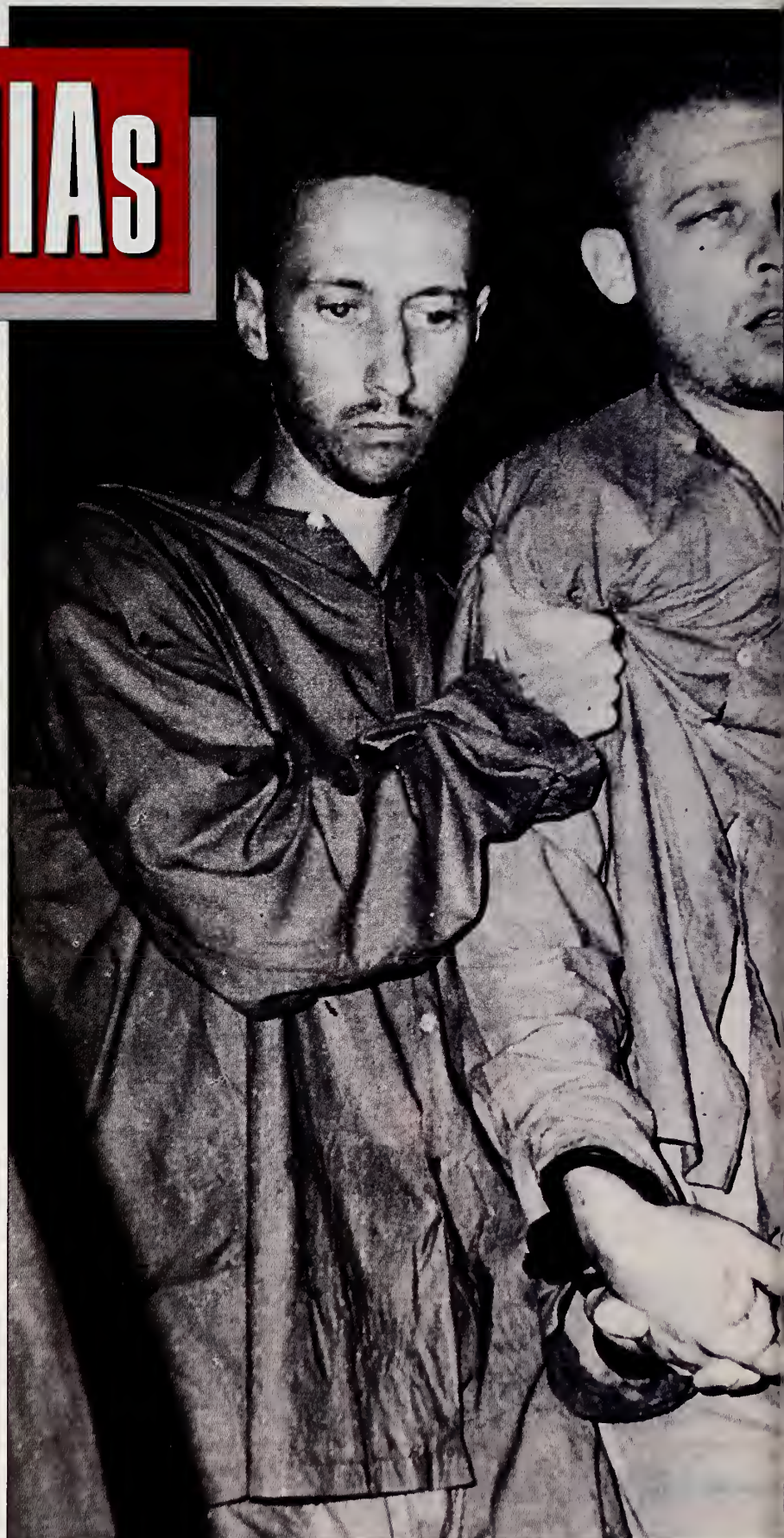
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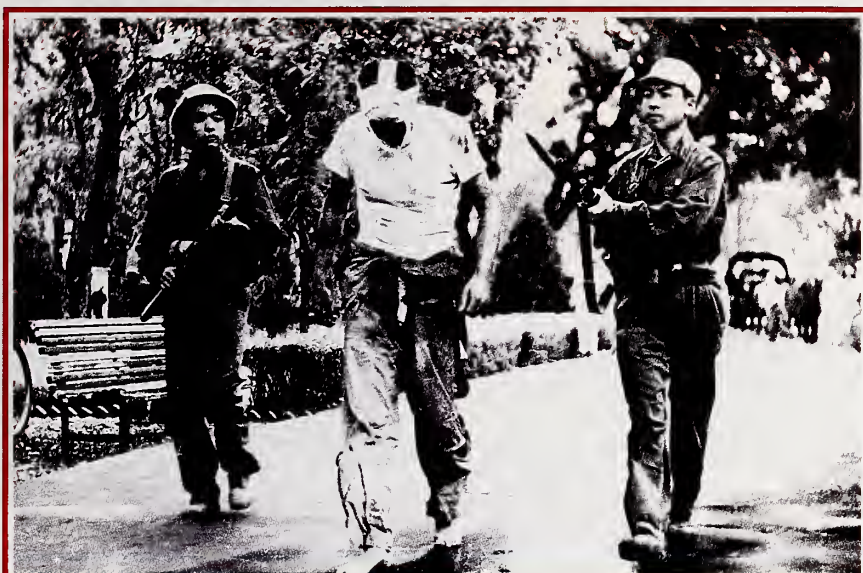
POW MIAS

THE MEN WE LEFT BEHIND



JOHN E. SIMON





PHOTOS BY AP/WIDE WORLD

CAPTIVE PRIZE—The North Vietnamese tortured and humiliated U.S. servicemen. Here, a downed American pilot is marched to a press conference in Hanoi.

We believed we would not abandon our men. Yet, 2,267 Americans remain unaccounted for after the Vietnam War. Questions about U.S. POW/MIAs outnumber answers.

By Miles Z. Epstein
and T. Douglas Donaldson

AT THE Pentagon, where rules and regulations are everything, rarely is a powerful high-ranking officer openly challenged by a member of his own staff. But that is exactly what retired Army Col. Millard A. Peck decided he had to do.

Last February, Colonel Peck resigned his post with the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) in protest. As chief of DIA's Special Office for Prisoners of War and Missing in Action, his job was to track down 2,267 Americans who are still listed as POW/MIAs from the Vietnam War—to bring every American, dead or alive, home from Southeast Asia.

PROPAGANDA—In July 1966, these U.S. airmen were handcuffed and paraded through the streets of Hanoi.

"I just didn't want to be part of a phony effort," Peck told *THE AMERICAN LEGION* magazine.

A decorated Vietnam veteran, Peck became convinced that the U.S. government abandoned American servicemen in Southeast Asia. He wasn't the first military officer to reach this conclusion.

In 1981, retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Eugene Tighe, then director of the DIA, testified before Congress that American POWs had been left behind in Southeast Asia.

Nobody listened.

"It's the families of these men who take the worst beating," says Richard Christian of the Legion's Washington

Miles Z. Epstein is managing editor of THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine. T. Douglas Donaldson is an assistant editor. THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine also expresses special thanks to The American Legion Foreign Relations Commission and John F. Sommer Jr. and Richard Christian of the Legion's Washington Office for their assistance in preparing this report.

POW MIAs

CRUEL CAPTIVITY—Many U.S. POWs, including Navy Cmdr. Charles Tanner, who drew these sketches of the Ha Lo prison in Hanoi, returned home with horror stories of cruelty and suffering.

Office. And he should know.

As one of The American Legion's POW/MIA researchers, Christian gets calls on nights and weekends from families who are frustrated.

"These people want to know what happened to their sons, their husbands, their fathers, and their brothers," Christian says. "All they get from the Pentagon is a sheet of paper that's all blacked out except for three lines. It's a cold process devoid of compassion."

Christian, accompanied by two editors from THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine, delivered this message personally to retired Army Gen. John W. Vessey Jr. at his Pentagon office.

Vessey agreed.

"We have the sensitivity of a pile driver in dealing with all of the families," Vessey said as he shook his head, leaned forward, and straightened his necktie.



DEGRADATION—Bowling was one of the most common forms of degradation U.S. POWs endured.

AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS



A former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, today Vessey serves as Presidential Emissary to Hanoi for POW/MIA Affairs, a de facto Ambassador to Vietnam on the POW/MIA issue. In a 1988 interview, confirming the findings of Colonel Peck and General Tighe, he said "... there is good evidence that there are live prisoners, and it is in the Vietnamese interest to straighten out their relations with the United States."

Today, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is trying to do just that, normalize relations with the United States of America. And the great fear among many concerned with the POW/MIA issue is that formal ties—establishing diplomatic relations and lifting America's economic embargo on Vietnam—will destroy the last hope of accounting for and recovering America's missing.

"It's a death warrant," says Kathy Borah Duez, a sister of missing Navy pilot Lt. Daniel Borah Jr. Her brother was shot down over South Vietnam in 1972.

Soldiers who fought on the ground in Vietnam, like Peck, can't help but remember the tactics of the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) and the Viet Cong (VC). They used the neighboring countries of Laos and Cambodia to sneak into South Vietnam and attack American forces. They would mix with the rural population of the Southern villages by day and launch attacks by night.

U.S. troops could not tell the difference between friend and enemy. Now,

almost 20 years later, America still can't.

Time is running out.

THE ROAD MAP

In an April 9, 1991, meeting in New York City, a U.S. State Department official presented Trinh Xuan Lang, Vietnam's Ambassador to the United Nations, with a plan, called "the road map." The road map is a blueprint for a new policy toward Vietnam—a policy that would help rebuild Vietnam's crumbling economy while officially recognizing Vietnam's communist government.

In essence, the road map would put an end to U.S. hostility toward Vietnam at a time when most Americans believe that there are still American POWs being held in Southeast Asia. While Americans may not want to believe that their country abandoned some of the men it sent to fight the Vietnam War, many believe that is what happened.

Sixty-four percent say that there are still American POWs in Southeast Asia, according to a 1990 Gallup Poll. In a 1991 CNN/Time poll, 70 percent of the American people say that Vietnam is still holding American prisoners.

The road map would also end U.S. hostility to Vietnam just as Vietnam has emerged as a more productive trade partner than its \$198 per capita income might suggest. Vietnam has oil, lots of it.

For U.S. companies to gain access to Vietnam's oil, the United States would have to normalize relations with Viet-



LOCKWOOD BLACK STAR COURTESY LIFE MAGAZINE



TORTURE was common for American prisoners, despite Vietnam's claims of compassionate treatment. Why should we believe they are telling the truth now?



ILLUSTRATION BY JIM SHAPPE

POW MIAs

nam within a year, according to an East-West Center report. The U.S. government imposed an economic embargo on communist Vietnam in 1964 and American companies cannot legally do business there.

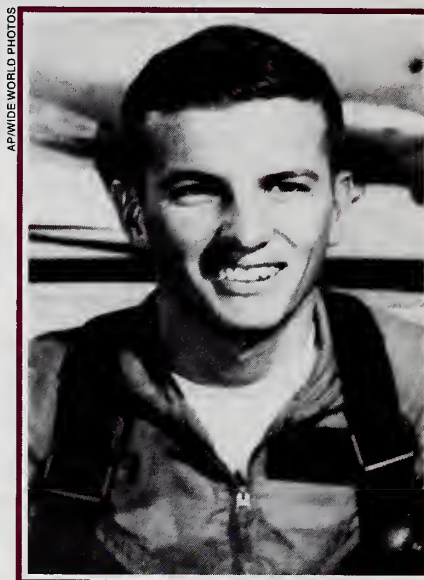
According to the East-West Center, Vietnam has the potential to produce between 1.5 billion and 3 billion barrels of oil, worth an estimated \$3 billion per year in the next 10 to 15 years.

"The most exciting exploration blocks might be made available to U.S. oil companies—particularly if the embargo is lifted within the next year or so," said the report.

Said Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana: "The Vietnamese government told me they had set aside some of the prime oil locations for American investment." Lugar recently completed a trip to Vietnam on behalf of the U.S. Senate.

A State Department briefing for veterans groups confirmed that American oil companies are pressing hard for normalization.

"Why does it appear that America is rushing to restore diplomatic relations



EVIDENCE—Is Navy Lt. Larry Stevens, above, also the man at the far right? Though the Pentagon discredited the source of this "POW" picture, the photo itself has yet to be debunked.



with Vietnam and not with North Korea, where over 8,000 Americans are still POW/MIAs?" asks the Legion's National Commander, Dominic D. DiFrancesco. "Have the Vietnamese been more forthcoming? Or is there something that Vietnam has that North Korea doesn't? How many barrels of cheap oil is one American soldier's life worth?"

Although government sources quibble over the choice of words, the road map clearly offers the Vietnamese a deal. If they withdraw military forces from Cambodia and allow a political settlement there, the United States will re-establish diplomatic relations.

With a Vietnamese troop withdrawal completed in Cambodia and a political settlement well under way there, Vietnam's communist regime is right on track to be officially recognized by Washington.

Along with diplomatic relations, Vietnam could expect the U.S. embargo to be lifted. More important, however, the U.S. could cease its long-standing opposition to loans from The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. With its clout, the U.S. can effec-

THE FACTS—Shelby Quast, daughter of MIA Air Force Col. John Robertson, presents evidence to Congress. Many MIA families have been outspoken.

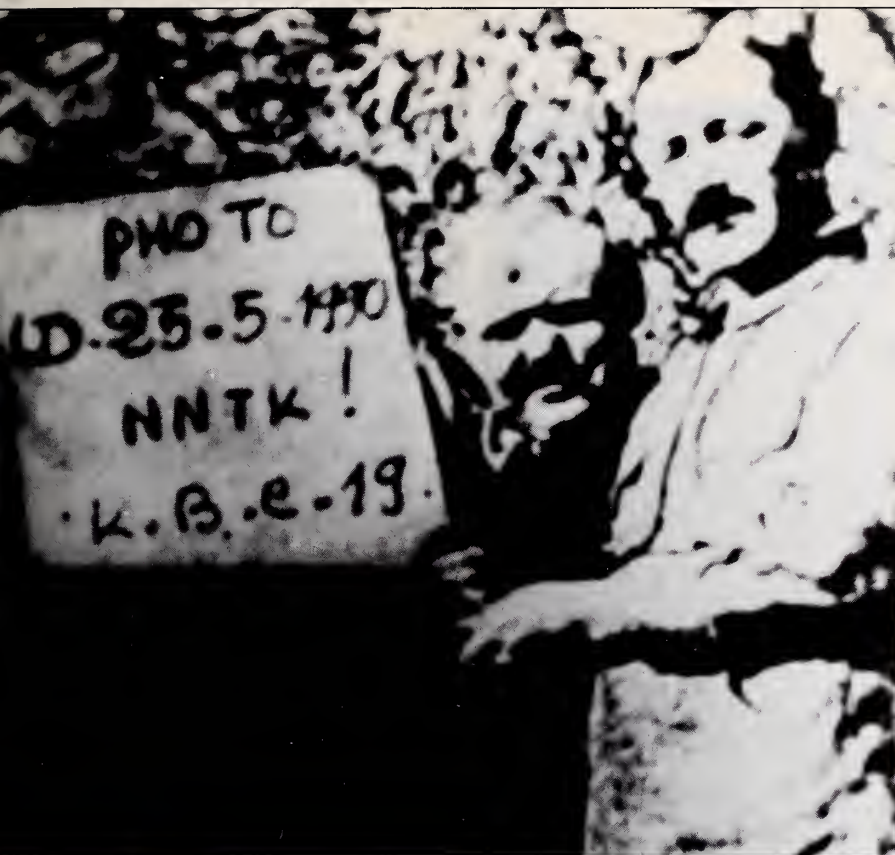


PHOTOS BY CRANDALL/PICTURE GROUP

tively block financial aid from coming into Vietnam. Vietnam hasn't been able to get international financial aid since August 1978.

What does the road map say about American POW/MIAs?

The Vietnamese are asked to fully cooperate on the "remaining unresolved 'last known alive' discrepancy cases." In other words, POW/MIAs. But the language does not spell out what "full cooperation" means.



PRESSING—Capt. Eugene McDaniel (left), a former POW, released the above photo to national media.



"Vietnam has traditionally held back enemy POWs after wars," says John F. Sommer, executive director of the Legion's Washington Office. Sommer served as an Army medic in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War and was part of a fact-finding group that went to Vietnam and Thailand last summer.

"The road map gives the Vietnamese everything they desire—access to financial aid, new markets and diplomatic ties with the United States—

without forcing them to come clean with what they know about American POW/MIAs," Sommer says.

The road map effectively removes all of the U.S. leverage against Vietnam: the embargo, international financial aid and diplomatic recognition.

When a copy of this plan fell into the hands of The American Legion, it was immediately apparent that its execution would have some unfortunate consequences for America's POW/MIAs. These include:

- Vietnam is not required to meet any specific conditions on the POW/MIA issue. This deal has been introduced at a time when there are new opportunities to find America's missing men. Changes in what was the Soviet Union. A U.S. POW/MIA office in Hanoi. And a congressional investigation. These are America's last opportunities.

- History shows that the Vietnamese cannot be trusted. In its language, the road map relies heavily on Vietnam's honesty. That doesn't give much hope to the families of America's 2,267 POW/MIAs. Those who know the Vietnamese express despair about America's potential for recovering our missing.

Res. 291 Defines Legion's Position

DELEGATES to the 73rd National Convention of The American Legion unanimously approved Res. 291, "The American Legion Policy on Activities Relating to Southeast Asia POWs and MIAs."

The following resolved clauses outline the Legion's stance on the POW/MIA issue.

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Phoenix, Arizona, September 3, 4, 5, 1991, that The American Legion assist the families of POWs and MIAs in ensuring that any evidence, reports, photographs, or other information relating to their loved ones is given effective, expeditious and sincere consideration by the Department of Defense; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that The American Legion urge the President of the United States to charge the Secretary of Defense with the primary responsibility of interpreting policy and exercising overall direction and control of POW/MIA activities through the service secretaries and the Chiefs of Staff of the Army and Air Force, Chief of the Naval Operations, and Commandants of the Marine Corps and Coast Guard, thereby eliminating involvement by the Defense Intelligence Agency; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Secretary of Defense be urged to establish an office for the recovery of Prisoners of War and Missing in Action, which should report directly to the Secretary and receive support as requested from other Department of Defense elements; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that The American Legion support legislation that would allow the release of information relating to live sighting and other data pertaining to POWs and MIAs deemed not to compromise the national security of the United States; and, be it further

Please turn to page 57

POW MIAs

• Unfortunately, the U.S. government's track record on the POW/MIA issue isn't much better than Vietnam. There is evidence of the following: U.S. government officials didn't take the hunt for POW/MIAs seriously; the government's effort to find POW/MIAs was destined to fail from the beginning; and military secrecy buried the truth about America's missing men—in Pentagon files and on the battlefield.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

The fall of communism in the Soviet Union, followed by the disintegration of the Soviet Union itself, could unlock some of the Vietnam War's last secrets. It could explain what happened to some of America's POW/MIAs.

During the Vietnam War, the Soviet Union sent weapons, military advisers and KGB agents to Southeast Asia. As a close Soviet ally, Vietnam was provided with Moscow's most modern military hardware, including the SAM-2, an anti-aircraft missile.

"By mid-1966, the performance of the SAM was an embarrassment," says

historian Robert S. Hopkins III, in a *Los Angeles Times Magazine* article on POW/MIAs. In 1965, SAMs were able to shoot down U.S. planes only 5 percent of the time.

Said the *Los Angeles Times Magazine*: "Soviet prestige—not to mention the war effort—depended on finding out how American planes were evading the SAMs. The obvious sources of up-to-date American intelligence were the hundreds of American airmen who were literally falling into the arms of Moscow's loyal allies, the North Vietnamese."

To retired Air Force Master Sgt. Jerry Mooney, a National Security Agency (NSA) code-breaker and analyst during the Vietnam War, this is not news. He monitored conversations between the North Vietnamese and their Soviet allies, including discussions about American POWs.

According to Mooney, the KGB and other Soviet military outfits interrogated captured American pilots because they wanted to know how U.S. aircraft were so successfully avoiding Soviet anti-aircraft missiles.

Experts like Sergeant Mooney and General Tighe believe that the Vietnamese may have kept some American prisoners for their technical knowledge. And, in some cases, transported U.S. POWs from Vietnam to the Soviet Union.

Mooney tracked the movement of American POWs in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia while at NSA.

"Usually what you heard was a reference that they were being moved to the 'friends,'" Mooney says. "Friends" was the Vietnamese code word for Soviet soldiers or KGB.



AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS



SIMILAR FEATURES—Legionnaire Matthew Carr holds a 1961 family photo which includes his brother, Army Capt. Donald Carr, missing in Laos since 1971. Carr believes his brother is a POW and that the bottom right photo was taken of him in 1990.

VETVOICE

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

Do you believe our government should make public all the information it has about the POW/MIA issue? Call your letter to the editor to **1-900-740-VETS**. You can record a letter to the editor and listen to opinions of others.

Calls cost \$1 per minute and proceeds support Legion programs. Opinions from the Vetvoice line published in the magazine are indicated with a **V** symbol.

1-900-740-VETS



JOHN E. SIMON

CAPT. EUGENE "RED" McDANIEL
Former POW in Vietnam

**'TO DEAL with
Watergate politically,
Nixon decided that
the POWs were dead.'**

"Sometimes, with a stroke of luck, you would not only hear the Vietnamese talking or passing a code, but also you would hear Russian conversations going on in the background, talking about what happened or instructing the Vietnamese what to do," Mooney says.

Today, there are sources in the United States and particularly in Russia, that corroborate Mooney's story.

According to newspaper accounts, Terry Minarcin, a retired Air Force technical sergeant who worked for Mooney at NSA, also tracked American POWs en route to the Soviets. Minarcin says that Hanoi shipped 22 Americans to Moscow between December 1977 and January 1978, and that these shipments may have continued into the 1980s.

Information on U.S. POW/MIAs is surfacing in Russia too.

According to *The New York Times*, former KGB Maj. Gen. Oleg D. Kalugin, chief of his organization's intelligence activities in Vietnam from 1975 to 1978, admitted to interrogating Americans in Vietnam.

Last year, on an Australian Television documentary, a Soviet agent "... said he had helped fly two Americans [POWs] to the Soviet Union and that he had seen three other captured servicemen on flights from Vietnam," according to another article in *The New York Times*.



NEILSON/BLACK STAR

UNFOUND FATHER—Jean Fallon, center, raised daughters Jean (r) and Cappi, alone. Her husband, Pat, has been missing since 1969.

Adding fuel to the POW/MIA issue, a Soviet newspaper reported last November that an American POW pilot was transported to the Kazakhstan republic and still lives there. The U.S. State Department says it is investigating this report.

As the United States reorganizes its diplomatic relations with the new independent states that once formed the Soviet Union, there is an opportunity to resolve some of the many POW/MIA cases that have a Soviet connection.

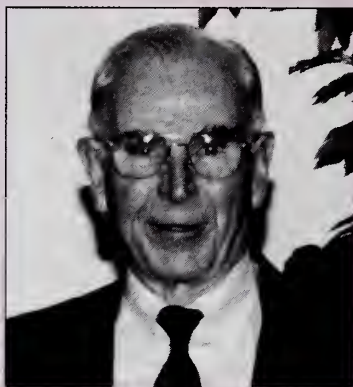
If the U.S. government doesn't investigate the Russian POW/MIA informa-

tion—now—it could betray 2,267 men who fought for this country in Vietnam.

Another new opportunity to resolve the POW/MIA issue lies in the U.S. POW/MIA office in Hanoi.

Established in July 1991, the office is run by Pentagon staff who support the Presidential Emissary to Hanoi for POW/MIA Affairs, retired Army Gen. John W. Vessey Jr. In 1988, well before the office was in operation, Vessey began coordinating joint U.S.-Vietnamese MIA investigations. Aided by the Vietnamese, U.S. officials began to dig up crash sites in search of remains.

POW MIAs



GEN. JOHN W. VESSEY Jr.
Presidential Emissary to Hanoi

'WE HAVE the sensitivity of a pile driver in dealing with families.'

In addition to these joint investigations, the U.S. POW/MIA office investigates live-sighting reports, conducts information research and assists the Vietnamese in the logistics of remains repatriation.

General Vessey has high hopes for the office.

"When we started out, we were very close still to a state of war with each other," he says. Now, "we have learned to work together.

"We have a better mechanism in place for pursuing the fullest possible accounting for Vietnam than any war preceding it—than Korea, than World War II."

According to the Department of Defense (DoD), 308 remains of American servicemen have been returned since President Reagan appointed General Vessey to his position. Vessey says that the U.S. POW/MIA office in Hanoi will definitely help resolve the POW/MIA issue.

However, others aren't so sure.

For retired Navy Capt. Eugene "Red" McDaniel, a former POW in Vietnam, the office is part of the same bureaucracy that has failed to resolve the POW/MIA issue for almost 20 years.

"I think General Vessey is a victim of a flawed policy," Captain McDaniel says. "I think that office is a step toward normalization, and not a serious effort to resolve the POW/MIA issue."

Chaired by Navy Vietnam veteran, Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, the Senate has created a select committee to investigate the POW/MIA issue.

This committee is expected to have unprecedented access to classified U.S. documents and information, more than the previous 11 congressional investigations, according to *USA Today*.

Other senators on the committee include former POW John McCain of Arizona, former Marine Charles Robb of Virginia and Navy veteran Jesse Helms of North Carolina.

The American Legion has already testified in some of the hearings. (see "Legion Guidelines for POW/MIA Committee," next page).

"After almost 20 years, time is running out for America's missing men," says John F. Sommer Jr., the executive director of the Legion's Washington Office.

"This committee represents this country's last chance to aggressively pursue the truth about American POW/MIAs in Southeast Asia.

"The road map needs to take a back seat to all of these new opportunities to resolve the POW/MIA issue—changes in the Soviet Union, the U.S. POW/MIA office in Hanoi and the Senate select committee," Sommer says.

SELLING POWs

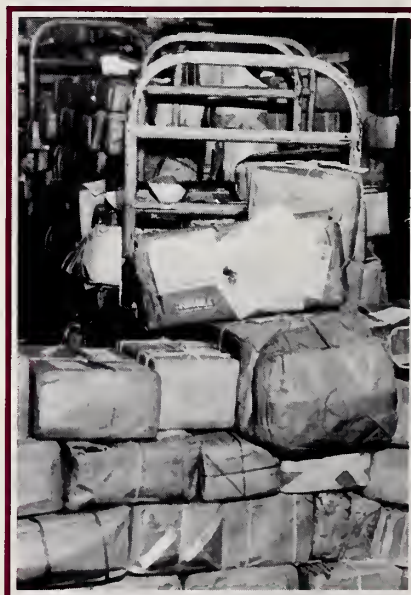
The admission of KGB officials like General Kalugin—namely that they interrogated American POWs in Vietnam and in the Soviet Union—raises a disturbing certainty.

If what they say can be proven, then North Vietnam lied to the United States in 1973 and did not return all of its American POWs. If true, this means that there were in 1973 and could still be captured U.S. servicemen alive in Southeast Asia.

The Vietnamese can't be trusted on the POW/MIA issue. They've proven that.

The road map is not the U.S. government's first attempt at forging official ties with Vietnam after the war. The U.S. approached Vietnam about normalizing relations two times in the 1970s; in March 1976 and between 1977 and 1978. But the Vietnamese

PHOTOS BY AP/WIDE WORLD



FULL ACCOUNTING—*The Vietnamese collected equipment taken from U.S. pilots in October 1967 (top photo), but refused to forward mail addressed to U.S. POWs (above). In addition, Vietnam returned only 591 American POWs in Operation Homecoming in 1973 (right).*



Legion Guidelines For POW/MIA Committee

ON NOV. 6, 1991, The American Legion offered testimony before the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs.

John F. Sommer Jr., the executive director of The American Legion's Washington Office, presented the committee with 17 recommendations for proper investigations on the POW/MIA issue.

The American Legion recommended that the committee do the following:

1. Call in every document relating to the more than 1,400 live-sighting reports for analysis.

2. Review the "acid test" used by the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) to distill the number of live-sightings to "believable" reports.

3. Examine the methodology used in collecting POW/MIA information and compiling live-sighting reports.

4. Review the structure and operation of the DIA Special Office for Prisoners of War and Missing in Action.

5. Study the satellite photographs of the National Reconnaissance Office, which provides the location of reported POW sites.

6. Review the 1986 Tighe Commission report on POW/MIAs in Southeast Asia.

7. Analyze the logistical support and resources provided to the Joint Casualty Resolution Center (JCRC) and the U.S. POW/MIA office in Hanoi.

8. Determine, based on records contained in archives and repositories in the United States, details of all POW/MIA search and rescue missions conducted by the U.S. in Southeast Asia.

9. Thoroughly investigate charges that individuals within the U.S. government have intimidated, coerced, discredited and ignored sources who have provided data on live POWs.

10. Determine why information concerning the POW/MIA issue is still classified by the DoD.

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POW MIAs

continued to link normalizing relations with receiving financial aid from the United States.

Five days after the signing of the Paris Peace Accords, which ended direct U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War, U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger delivered a letter dated Feb. 1, 1973, promising more than \$3 billion in post-war reconstruction aid to the Prime Minister of North Vietnam, according to "An Examination of U.S. Policy Toward POW/MIAs," a 1991 POW/MIA report by the Republican staff of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, commissioned by North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms.

The Vietnamese considered this aid as war reparations for the damage the U.S. military inflicted on their country, according to retired Army Col. John H. Madison, Jr., former chief of the Four Party Joint Military Team between 1974 and 1975.

The Four Party Joint Military Team was a Saigon-based group with the mission of accounting for American MIAs. The team included representatives of the United States, South Vietnam, North Vietnam and the Viet Cong.

But the letter's contents, the promise of financial aid, never made it through Congress and got buried amid the political chaos of Watergate. Vietnam never received financial aid from the United States.

"They are still hanging on to the idea that we are going to give them some money," Colonel Madison says. "When the Four Party Joint Military Team used to go up to Hanoi—we went up there every Friday on a liaison flight in a U.S. Air Force C-130—the North Vietnamese would point out this rail yard on the north side of the Red River.

"It was completely cut out by the B-52s' Christmas raid of 1972. And they told me that 'when you people give us the money to fix this, we might give you some information on your POW/MIAs.'"

U.S. Secretary of State William P. Rogers called on the Congress to restrain from "making adverse comments on the aid issue, at least until American troops are out of Vietnam and all American prisoners are released," according to a February 1973 Associated Press wire report.



Observing the harsh treatment of American POWs, the Senate, in an 88-3 roll call vote, voted to "bar any aid to North Vietnam," according to the Associated Press. Many fear that the Vietnamese held on to Americans because they were never paid. After all, selling hostages and POWs is a Vietnamese tradition.

Like the United States, the French fought a prolonged and controversial war in Vietnam from 1946 to 1954. Vietnam collected French POWs too.

The United States gave the Vietnamese over 5,000 names of POWs.

DEEP WATER DEAL?—In addition to oil, Vietnam may be using Cam Ranh Bay as a bargaining chip for rapid normalization, especially because U.S. forces soon must vacate the Philippines.

Only 591 were returned. Similarly, the French got back only one-third of the prisoners that it claimed were in the hands of the Vietnamese.

According to the Historical Service of the French Army, of the 39,888 prisoners held by the Vietminh, 29,954 were not repatriated.

Even after the Vietnamese had supposedly returned all of their French POWs, about 40 French POWs were returned to France. The French government charged these men with desertion and court-martialed them. This parallels the U.S. government's treatment of Robert Garwood, a former U.S. POW who returned to America in 1979. Garwood was charged with desertion, but maintained that he was held as a POW for 14 years.

The French government was also unable to get the Vietnamese to repatriate all their men's remains. To this day, the French pay as much as \$30 million to maintain French military graves on Vietnamese soil.

There is also evidence that the Vietnamese held on to the remains of American servicemen after the war.

"POW/MIA information during the Vietnam War was consolidated at the Hanoi level and is in a file cabinet there," Colonel Madison says. "And they will give it to us in drips and drabs or all at once depending on when they get ready. Certainly, they know a great deal more about POW/MIAs than they've told the United States."



COL. MILLARD A. PECK
Former Chief of DoD's
POW/MIA Office

'THE FARCE is being played to stall the issue until it dies a natural death.'

Vietnam never returned any POWs who were maimed in any way. General Tighe suspects that this could be yet another reason that some American POWs were not released.

THE U.S. RECORD

Although former President Ronald Reagan declared the POW/MIA issue "the highest national priority" in January 1983, as have other Presidents before him, there is little evidence that U.S. government officials took these proclamations seriously.

For example, a National Security Council (NSC) memo, addressed to Zbigniew Brzezinski, offers a picture of an attitude of at least one government staff member during the Carter administration. This internal NSC memo, dated January 21, 1980, states the following:

"Once again, the National League of Families seeks to meet you. They have nothing new to say. So I recommend turning down this request.

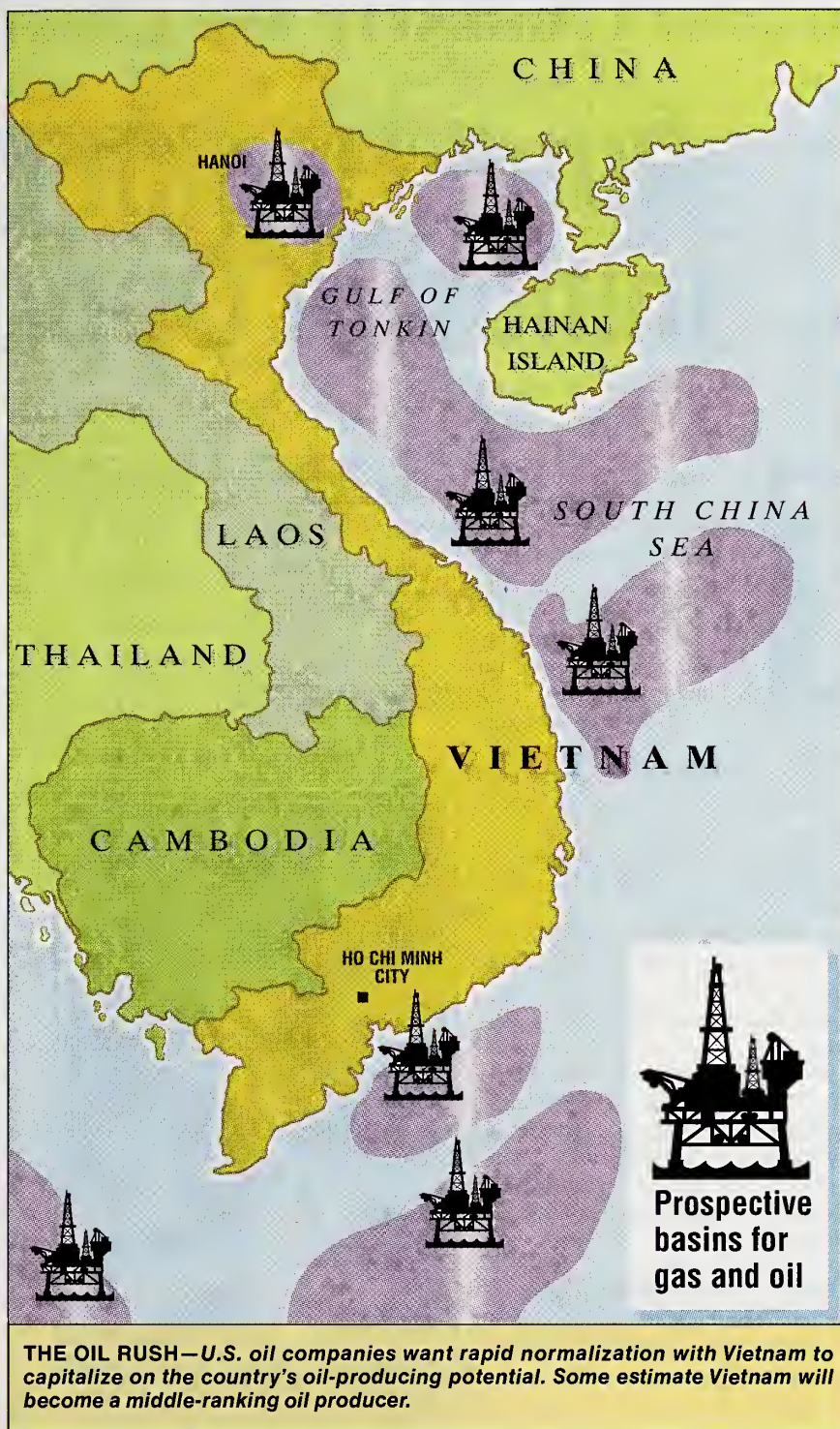
"However, a letter from you is important to indicate that you take recent refugee reports of sightings of live Americans 'seriously.' This is simply good politics; DIA and State are playing this game, and you should not be the whistle blower. The idea is to say that the President is determined to pursue any lead concerning possible live MIAs.

"Do not offer an opinion as to whether these leads are realistic. Apparently you revealed skepticism to Congressman Gilman, and my recommended letter to the League walks you back from that."

For almost 20 years, the U.S. government's efforts on the POW/MIA issue may have been half-hearted and appear to have been destined to fail: POWs have been seen by five successive administrations as a political liability and virtually ignored. The government, in its zest to cross names off the POW/MIA list, has positively identified remains without sufficient scientific evidence and information about POW/MIAs is so highly classified that the people who could act on it never see it.

In many ways, the 2,267 POW/MIAs in Southeast Asia are a casualty of American politics.

"To deal with Watergate politically, Richard Nixon and the State Department decided that the POWs were all dead," says retired Navy Capt. Eugene



RANDY PALMER/EASTWEST CENTER

"Red" McDaniel, a former POW who served as the Navy/Marine Corps liaison to the House of Representatives.

McDaniel believes that the U.S. government knowingly left American POWs behind in Southeast Asia after 1973.

"On April 12, 1973, we declared them all dead," McDaniel says. "That became policy—a flawed policy to deal

with Watergate politically."

After Operation Homecoming in 1973, the last release of American POWs by the North Vietnamese, President Nixon told the American people that all U.S. POWs are now free.

"For the first time in 12 years, we can observe Armed Forces Day with all of our fighting forces home from Vietnam

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Rural Health Care Initiative Opposed

THE ill-conceived plan to treat non-veterans in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities last month encountered growing opposition as two senators introduced separate bills in Congress to kill it.

Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama introduced S. 2183, which would quash the Rural Health Care Initiative (RHCI), the VA and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) three-year pilot program allowing treatment of Medicare and Medicaid patients in VA facilities.

Also, Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania introduced S. 2200, which would prohibit VA and HHS money to be spent on treatment of non-veterans in VA facilities.

"Allowing non-veterans medical care in facilities designed, built and solely intended to treat veterans is a slap in the face to the men and women who have served this country," says National Commander Dominic D. DiFrancesco.

Sen. Specter agrees. "I believe spaces in VA hospitals should, except in extremely limited situations, be reserved for veterans who have earned those spaces," he said, when introducing his bill.

"This is particularly true now, when fiscal constraints are forcing veterans' hospitals to turn away eligible veterans. We are turning away those eligible veterans from the very facilities designed by law and national commitment to serve them while, at the same time, opening doors to these same facilities for non-veterans."

VA and HHS entered into a memorandum of understanding that would allow participating VA hospitals to charge Medicare and Medicaid for the

Senators introduce two bills to scrap the plan, as letters and phone calls by Legionnaires add to the outcry.

.....



"BAD IDEA"—National Commander Dominic D. DiFrancesco testifies before Congress about the Rural Health Care Initiative.

treatment of non-veterans.

RHCI would provide health care in rural areas with limited medical facilities. Two sites were selected in Virginia and Alabama as part of the pilot program.

The American Legion has been opposed to the RHCI since hearing about the program last summer. And at the 73rd National Convention in

Phoenix, Convention delegates unanimously passed Res. 126, urging Congress to reject any proposal to dilute or change the mission of VA by accepting non-veterans for medical treatment.

Since then Congress has been inundated with protests from Legionnaires and other veterans. "The cards, letters and phone calls they make to their Congressmen add weight to what the Legion is saying in congressional testimony," said Chester Stellar, Chairman of the Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission.

If RHCI is allowed to continue, the result would be devastating, especially after the means-test legislation slammed VA hospital doors on thousands of veterans nationwide in 1984, Stellar said.

"It's an insult to veterans to even consider treating civilians in veterans' facilities while veterans were being denied care," DiFrancesco said.

"Treating non-veterans in VA facilities has aroused the veterans of this nation as few other issues have," Specter said. "I am convinced that we need more, not less, health care for American veterans."

Still, the problem of health care is real. It's not just a veterans' problem, said DiFrancesco. He pointed out that VA operates 172 hospitals and a network of clinic and other facilities. Yet the federal government is overlooking what amounts to be a model of a national health-care program.

"VA should be consulted to help solve the national health-care crisis. The Rural Health Care Initiative did not address health-care concerns adequately. We trust Health and Human Services, VA and The American Legion will work together to find real ways to begin to solve the health-care crisis," said DiFrancesco. □

IS CONGRESS STILL THE PEOPLE'S FORUM?

Yes, but with some reservations, says congressional authority Norman J. Ornstein. Torn by an often divided, always demanding populace, Congress is too timid to risk taking on the big issues.



PART HOLLYWOOD and Madison Avenue, part vaudeville and two-ring circus—that's Congress, the heart of our democracy.

As Congress gets set for another election, it finds itself plagued by scandals and blasted for outsized pay raises, lavish fringe benefits, lifelong sinecures and vote selling. Congress is so loved that proposals to limit members' terms have become an election issue.

Yet, despite all the negatives, this is the one forum that people can, and do, turn to for help on every conceivable problem, from a missing Social Security check to a life-and-death international crisis.

How is Congress performing in the 205th year since it was chartered by the Constitution?

Surprisingly well, says congressional expert Norman J. Ornstein, who spoke with *THE AMERICAN LEGION* magazine for the second of our series, "Inside the Government Machine."

Ornstein is a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) for public policy research in Washington, D.C. A former congressional staffer, he is AEI's expert on Congress, a contributor to PBS's *MacNeil-Lehrer News Hour* and an election analyst for CBS News.

American Legion magazine: Mr. Ornstein, public opinion polls regularly show that congressmen are held in low regard. What's gone wrong?

Norman Ornstein: This is nothing new. Congress has been held in relatively low regard by the American people since we began to measure such things. It's hard for people to personalize what the institution is and that puts it at a disadvantage compared with, say, the presidency, where

there is one individual in charge. Everybody votes for the President and can readily grasp that.

Also, Americans have always had substantial skepticism about politics and politicians. That's a very positive thing in general, but Congress bears the brunt of it while the President becomes a statesman standing above it all.

Q. Isn't Congress' dismal record on fraud and other scandals part of the problem?

A. There is no question about that. But much of the problem today lies in the way scandal and fraud are reported. I believe we have a cleaner and more honest Congress today than, perhaps, we've ever had. Ironically, the process of disclosure that has helped to make it cleaner is the very vehicle that makes people distrust the institution more.

Years ago members of Congress might get drunk, might solicit a prostitute, or might take huge amounts of cash for their campaigns. But these things were little reported by the media or prosecuted by the authorities. Now, if money is given over, it's reported to the Federal Election Commission and reporters put it in the newspaper the next day.

And speeding tickets are not forgiven for congressmen. They're hauled into court, and the first call that's made is to *The Washington Post* and it ends up on the front page.

Q. How representative are our representatives?

A. Compared to the public, these 535 people are not entirely representative. They are far more white and more male and more likely to have law degrees. But in terms of their human qualities, they're just like everybody else. The big difference is that others' problems don't make the evening news or the front page of the newspaper.



TIMOTHY MURPHY

Q. Congress is also accused of being unresponsive to public needs. What about that problem?

A. I would make the case that Congress is probably too responsive to public opinion—and that may, in turn, make it less responsive than it should be to public needs.

The argument often made is that Congress is completely captivated by an “inside the Beltway” mentality—trapped inside the road that rings the nation’s capital and pays no attention to what’s going on in the real world. But this is pretty ridiculous.

These are people who spend their lives feeling the pulse of public opinion. They read their letters, talk to people back home, do their own surveys. They know what their constituents are thinking. And they respond very directly.

But the public is always demanding that problems get solved at the same time that it wants less taxes and less government. When these things clash in Congress, it can often lead to nothing being done at all.

Q. Congressmen are inundated by mail, meetings and lobbying pressures. What can be done so that more time is given to important issues?

A. That’s a very worrisome problem. The press often focuses on recesses and vacations and makes you think that members of Congress work for two weeks of the year and sit under palm trees for the other 50 weeks. Yet, there are few people in our society who work as hard or as many hours. An enormous amount of frenetic activity fragments the day, so

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HIGHLIGHTS

Norman J. Ornstein On...

Integrity: “We have a cleaner and more honest Congress today than we’ve ever had.”

Responsiveness: “Congress is probably too responsive to public opinion and less responsive than it should be to public needs.”

The public: “The public is always demanding that problems get solved at the same time it wants less taxes and less government. It can lead to nothing being done at all.”

Term limits: “It wouldn’t prevent us from having veterans of WWII or Korea or Vietnam in Congress, but we’d get far fewer of them.”

Efficiency: “Congress was designed to be decentralized, balky, slow moving and inefficient. That’s what the Constitution gave us, for better or for worse.”



NIGHTLY WONDER — *Buckingham Memorial Fountain puts on a dazzling evening light display.*



CHICAGO CONVENTION BUREAU

FIREPROOF — *Built in 1869, the Water Tower Pumping Station survived the Chicago Fire.*

Chicago Calls!

• The Windy City
• will host the
• 74th National
• American Legion
• Convention.
• "Alliance for
• Freedom" is
• this year's
• theme.

A CITY of contrasts. A city of variety. A city on the move. A city where more is going on than is humanly possible to see. The city is Chicago, the Windy City, the city on the lake that will host The American Legion's 74th National Convention, Aug. 21-27.

Most of the Convention activities will take place in the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers located just east of Michigan Avenue near the Chicago River and the Magnificent Mile shopping area. The general sessions, com-



NAVY PIER—This 25-acre, man-made peninsula will be the site of the Legion's festival.

mission and committee meetings and the National Commander's Banquet will all be held there.

The traditional American Legion Convention parade, involving thousands of Legionnaires, Auxiliary members and Sons of The American Legion, will start at 2 p.m. on Michigan Avenue, Sunday, Aug. 23.

The Convention festival will depict the early World War II years with entertainment, displays and all types of food. The festival will be held at the Navy Pier, Monday, Aug. 24, just a short walk from the Sheraton.

For many of the "Old Salts" who passed through the Great Lakes Naval Recruit Training Command, returning to Chicago will be like coming home. They will find the city has changed like most large cities, but, in many respects, it is still that same old exciting "toddling town" that promises something for everyone.

This will be the eighth time Chicago has hosted the National Convention.

Legionnaires and their guests should enjoy the almost perfect weather in Chicago at Convention time. Temperatures at the end of August range in the 70s and 80s with a cool breeze flowing from lake Michigan in the evenings, offering a comfortable setting for sight-seeing and shopping.

Visitors will want to explore the beauty, culture and diversity that make Chicago a world class city. Begin your tour on Michigan Avenue at the landmark Water Tower Pumping Station, where one of the world's largest slide shows will get your tourist juices flowing. The 45-minute presentation includes 63 computerized slide projectors.

JUST a block away is the John Hancock Observatory, offering an exciting 94-story high view of the city. You can begin what is called The Magnificent Mile of shopping right outside the Hancock building.

Michigan Avenue boasts the hottest fashions and accessories from the world's most stylish stores. From Marshall Field's and Lord & Taylor at Water Tower Place at 835 North Michigan to Bloomingdale's and Bendels at 900 North Michigan, there are more than 180 shops and boutiques at the two malls.

The Magnificent Mile continues at Chicago Place, the new home of Saks Fifth Avenue, the largest Ann Taylor store in the United States, Louis Vuitton and 80 distinctive retailers.

Along with the stylish shops and boutiques are many stores found in

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VARIETY—From the beautiful grounds of the Lincoln Park Conservatory (top photo), to dining at the First National Bank of Chicago's Plaza (middle), to seeing the well known astronomy and space exhibits at the Adler Planetarium (bottom), the Windy City has something to keep the most avid tourist busy.



ILLUSTRATION BY WILLIAM CIGLIANO

LIQUID DIETS

You May Lose More Than You Gain

By Steve Salerno

THERE'S no mistaking the message of liquid-diet advertising. After all, if it works for Tommy Lasorda—and everybody knows how the Dodger manager loves his linguine—then it'll work for you, too.

Lurking behind this deceptively simple logic is one of the thorniest issues facing dieters and health officials alike: Exactly what role can Liquid-diet meal replacements play in either losing a few quick pounds or establishing a lifelong weight-control program?

As the diets gain in popularity, such questions take on added meaning—especially for older Americans, who are increasingly the targets of liquid-diet

advertising. It's no accident that, as America ages, Madison Avenue has been seeking out such spokesmen as Lasorda and crooner Mel Torme. In 1989 alone, sales of liquid-diet products of all types soared by some 214 percent. Perhaps 20 million of America's estimated 50 million overweight adults now are experimenting with meal replacements. Already, the products constitute a \$1 billion-a-year segment of the weight-loss industry.

Although sales figures tend to lump all liquid-diet products together, it's important to separate the medically managed programs, like Oprah Winfrey's much-publicized Optifast, from the various over-the-counter powders and premixed drinks.

What distinguishes the medically managed plans, first and foremost, is that they are medically managed. It is this close medical supervision that allows such diets, known as very-low-calorie-diets (VLCDs) to begin with a period of 90 days or more during which patients consume no solid food; they take in between 420 and 800 calories per day via three to five "shakes."

Dieters are given psychological counseling to help wean them off their food dependencies and take supplements to ensure that their intake of vitamins and minerals meets established daily allowances.

The medical testing includes weekly EKGs and blood tests to keep tabs on cardiac function, which can deteriorate rapidly if fluid loss causes an electrolyte imbalance, or if the body actually begins digesting heart muscle to meet its energy needs. Admission to these programs is limited to people who are at least 40 pounds, or 30 percent, above goal weight. In other words, those for whom the known risks of obesity outweigh the risks of the diet itself.

Such comprehensive care does not come cheap. Hospital plans cost between \$2,500 and \$4,000, or about \$50 for every pound the typical patient needs to lose. This explains the enormous appeal of over-the-counter products for do-it-yourselfers, who can buy more than a month's supply of canned diet powder for under \$50.

The leading distributor of over-the-counter meal replacements is Thompson Medical Co., maker of Slim-Fast and Ultra Slim-Fast powders. Thompson's splashy celebrity marketing campaign has earned its two products three-quarters of the nonprescription market.

That hasn't stopped challengers from trying. The past two years have witnessed a proliferation of off-the-shelf choices, among them California Diet, Dick Gregory's Bahamian Diet, Thin Again, Fimaloss and TrimFast. New flavors and even gender-specific versions debut on a regular basis.

THE latest product in this lucrative market is called DynaTrim, from Lederle Laboratories. DynaTrim's formula allows it to be prepared as a malt, mousse or ice pop. Industry analysts feel the main selling point of this chameleonlike food substitute may be psychological. "The closer a meal replacement gets to a solid, the more you feel like you're really eating something," says Russ Lemieux of the Calorie Control Council, which tracks diet products. Lemieux sees DynaTrim as symbolic of a competition to introduce imaginative diet aids that began in 1988, when Oprah unveiled her svelte, albeit short-lived, frame on national TV.

However, dieters hoping to duplicate Oprah's success at home for a fraction of Optifast's cost would do well to consider that scientific testing of over-the-counter plans has been virtually nil. There is little evidence supporting either safety or efficacy, other than the kind of anecdotal evidence trumpeted in celebrity endorsements.

Yale University behavioral specialist Kelly Brownell, Ph.D., criticizes manufacturers of store-bought, liquid-diet products. "Despite the widespread use of liquid-diet products, there is relatively little information available on their short-term and long-term effectiveness," he says.

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Steve Salerno, a frequent contributor to this magazine, writes on a variety of topics.

SHAKE AND BURN—Some 20 million Americans are trying liquid meal replacements, encouraged in part by endorsements from such celebrities as Tommy Lasorda and Oprah Winfrey.

Veterans of the Gulf War are now banned from donating blood. Leishmania, a parasitic disease transmitted by sand flies, has surfaced in a number of Gulf veterans.

In response to complaints of exposure to this and other health hazards, researchers at the General Accounting Office (GAO), plan to conduct a study of medical and dental examinations of U.S. military personnel discharged since March 1, 1991. Sen. Alan Cranston, chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, commissioned the study after learning about complaints some Gulf veterans made regarding inadequate or incomplete examinations at the time of their discharge.

Some 2.6 million veterans of World War I and World War II may be eligible for a part of more than \$1 billion in 1992 dividends from the veterans' life insurance program, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

VA Secretary Edward J. Derwinski says that the money is being distributed because veterans are living longer than originally predicted and that "the insurance trust funds are earning high yields from investment in long-term government securities." Only active policies will receive the dividend, with the amount varying according to age, type of insurance and duration of the policy. For more information, call VA; 800-669-8477.

Many veterans with VA home loans can reduce their monthly mortgage payments substantially by refinancing their loans, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). There are currently more than 1 million VA-guaranteed home loans with interest rates of 10 percent or higher. With the current VA home loan interest rate at 8 percent, the lowest in 14 years, the VA is encouraging veterans with interests rates of 2 percent or more (higher than the current rate) to refinance. For example, an \$80,000, 30-year loan at 10 percent has a monthly payment of \$702.06. The same loan amount at 8 percent would only require a payment of \$587.02. Veterans should contact the nearest VA regional office for further information.

Veterans who require medication from VA medical centers are being affected by skyrocketing pharmaceutical costs. VA cannot afford to stock many drugs because of their expense.

The House of Representatives is now at work to remedy the situation. At press time, House bill H.R. 2890, which would require manufacturers to sell drugs to VA at lower prices, cleared the House Veterans Affairs Committee. It is expected to be one of the first items lawmakers will consider in this session of Congress.

Specifically, H.R. 2890 would require pharmaceutical

manufacturers to sell drugs to VA at pre-1990 prices. Since the passage of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990, these companies have hiked their prices—in many cases by 100 percent or more.

Veterans are entitled to burial in a national cemetery if they were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Under certain guidelines, a veteran's spouse and dependent children are also eligible for such burials. Although, dependents do not have to be buried in the same cemetery as the veteran.

For eligible veterans and family members, VA handles opening and closing of the grave, furnishes a headstone or marker, and provides perpetual care. In most cemeteries, VA also provides a grave liner. For more information on other VA burial benefits, contact local funeral directors, national cemetery offices, or your VA regional office.

Veterans who receive VA compensation and pensions can now make use of direct deposit service by having the money electronically transferred to their bank accounts. According to a new marketing program, jointly coordinated by the Department of the Treasury and the Department of Veterans Affairs, direct deposit "guarantees your benefit payment is always available on the date of payment." In addition, the program will reduce government overhead. Last year, the U.S. government saved more than \$90 million through direct deposit. Your bank, savings and loan, or credit union can assist you in signing up for this free, safe and convenient service.

Korean War Memorial Coins are on sale until March 31, 1992. With a minimum purchase of 25 coins, the Korean War proof silver dollars are discounted to \$28.50 each and the uncirculated dollars are \$23.50 each. Single proof dollar coins are \$31 each and uncirculated dollars, \$26 per coin. For each coin sold, \$7 is donated to the Korean War Memorial construction fund. To order coins or receive more information, contact: The Korean War Memorial Coin Program, United States Mint, 633 Third St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20220; 202-874-6410.

Disabled veterans are invited to participate in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, July 14-18, 1992, in Dayton, Ohio, and the National Veterans Golden Age Games, Aug. 10-14, 1992, in Ann Arbor, Mich. For more information on these activities, contact Roxanne Fischetti, VA public affairs; 202-535-8454.

NEW!...THE MOST POWERFUL...MOST ACCURATE CLUB IN GOLF!

The CONTROLLER® HITS 30-50 YARDS LONGER, AUTOMATICALLY CORRECTS HOOKS AND SLICES ...MUST CUT STROKES — OR MONEY BACK!

Put your #3, #4 and #5 woods in the cellar. Tests show our new Controller driving iron can out hit all three by 30 to 50 yards.

And that's only half the story. The Controller automatically corrects hooks and slices! The club is so powerful, so accurate, we unconditionally guarantee it will cut 5 to 10 strokes off your score — or you owe us nothing! In fact, to prove it we'll send you one risk-free.

Test it against your #3 wood. If it doesn't give you 30 more yards (if you are a fairly good golfer), send the club back for a refund.

But it will give you 30 more yards! In fact, the Controller is so powerful many golfers use it off the tee, especially on narrow fairways.

Here is the Controller's exact distance advantage as compiled by some low-80's golfers.

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| CONTROLLER® | 220 yards |
| #3 Wood | 190 yards |
| #4 Wood | 180 yards |
| #5 Wood | 170 yards |

Now test the Controller's accuracy against your 3-iron. Purposely hit a shot off the *toe* of each club and watch what happens. Your 3-iron will *hook* the ball violently—the Controller will keep it down the middle! The same is true with *heel* shots. Your 3-iron will *slice* the ball violently—the Controller will automatically keep it on course!

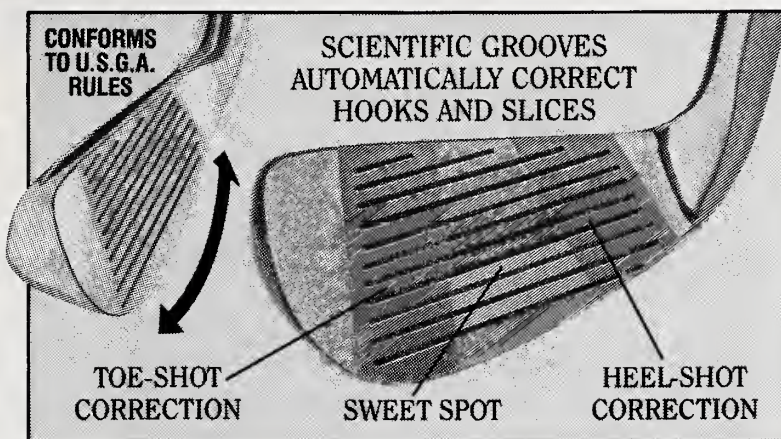
THE GREATEST STROKE-CUTTER IN GOLF

These scientific breakthroughs make the Controller driving iron the most powerful strokecutter in golf. We believe the club will transform the game. First of all, it obsoletes fairway woods! The Controller not only hits 30 to 50 yards farther than fairway woods, it automatically corrects hooks and slices! Here's how it works.

AUTOMATIC ACCURACY

The Controller has an *invisible curve* across its hitting surface—a curve that's going to revolutionize your game. *No other iron has it!* Hit a shot off the Controller's sweet spot and it will go straight, as it would with an ordinary iron. But even pros hit off the heel and toe.

Now, here is the Controller's genius...here is why you could cut as many as 10 strokes off your score. Hit the ball off the Controller's heel or toe and its invisible curve will automatically impart a corrective spin to what would otherwise be a disastrous hook or slice. The ball will actually fade or draw back on course! It's an incredible sight and you can prove it to yourself with only a few test shots. **THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT GOLFING BREAKTHROUGH IN GENERATIONS. ALONG WITH THE CONTROLLER'S EXTRA 30-50 YARDS, YOU SHOULD EASILY CUT 5-10 STROKES OFF YOUR GAME!**



Here are more reasons why the Controller driving iron is going to give you the best golf of your life...

- it gives you the power of a driver with the control of an iron...
- its sleek, smooth head swoops through grass more cleanly than a wood...
- its 17° loft gets your shot up faster than a #3 wood...
- its smaller head size (versus a wood) boosts clubhead speed...
- its 100% carbon-graphite shaft model adds even more clubhead speed...
- it lets you carry more wedges and putters without exceeding the 14-club limit (by eliminating your #3, #4 and #5 wood)...

The Controller is new and supply is limited. You must act now and remember, you are completely protected. If the Controller doesn't cut 5-10 strokes off your score, you may return it (undamaged, of course) for a prompt refund of its price.

FREE!

...just for trying the Controller! Keep your new power pin-high with a \$15.00 Rangefinder! It's yours to keep FREE! even if you return the Controller for a refund. **NOW YOU CAN RANGE YOUR NEW DISTANCE LIKE AN ARTILLERY OFFICER.** No batteries required. Clips to belt.

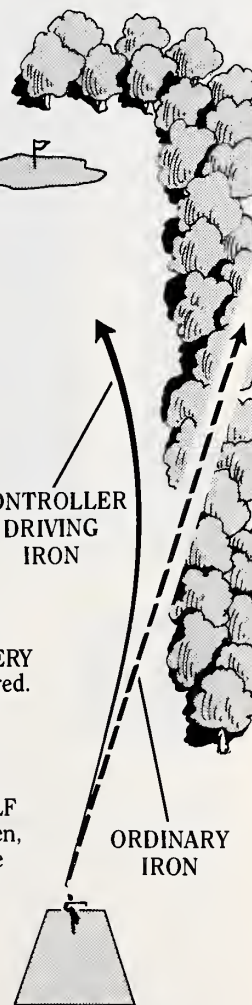


HOW TO ORDER

Send your name, address and check (or credit card number and expiration date) to the NATIONAL GOLF CENTER (Dept. DR-230), 500 So. Broad St., Meriden, CT 06450. Or call 203-238-2712 (8-8 PM, M-F). The steel-shaft CONTROLLER costs only \$59.00; the carbon-graphite model costs \$89.00. Add \$4.75 for s/h/ins. CT and NY must add sales tax. Specify regular or stiff flex, right or left-handed. No P.O. boxes, all deliveries are UPS. A refund is guaranteed if a club is returned undamaged within 30 days. Clubs are also available in ladies size, steel or graphite, same prices.

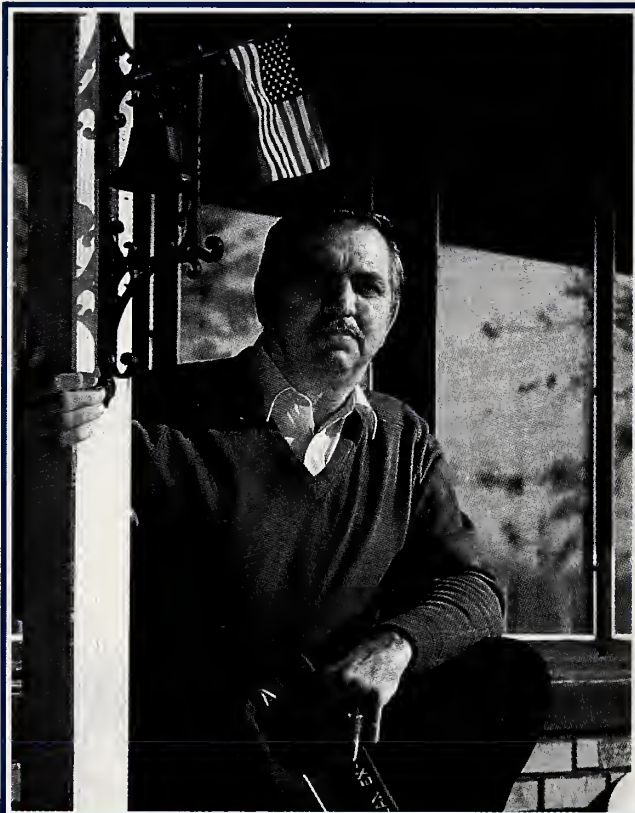
CONTROLLER DRIVING IRON

ORDINARY IRON



THE CONTROLLER HITS LONGER AND STRAIGHTER THAN ANY OTHER CLUB IN GOLF. IF IT DOESN'T CUT 5-10 STROKES, YOU OWE US NOTHING! ACT NOW!

National Commander Presents Medal To Former Korean War POW



USEFUL EXPERIENCE—Raymond Baumbach believes his POW experience now helps in prison ministry.

NO ONE could blame Ray Baumbach if he still isn't sure if "No. 3" is his lucky or unlucky number. While serving in the Army during the Korean War, Baumbach was wounded three times, taken prisoner of war three times, and escaped three times.

Once, Baumbach's Chinese captors lined up 15 POWs, including Baumbach, and shot every third prisoner. Baumbach still shudders

when he thinks about standing next to a prisoner who was shot.

Baumbach's odyssey of capture, escape and suffering began in the winter of 1950 when the Chinese overran the 2nd Infantry Division.

"When we were overran, everything was so mixed up, everybody running into each other, enemy and friend alike," Baumbach says.

The Chinese captured Baumbach and 125 other Americans.

Baumbach remembers

little of the next few days of forced marching to a Chinese prison camp. "The days just melted into each other," he says.

After a U.S. napalm air strike on the area where he was held, Baumbach escaped. He and a few other POWs traveled through the night but were recaptured. After his second capture, he escaped again, only to be recaptured, again.

"Every time I was about to quit, I would think about my mom and brother," Baumbach says. "I could see them very clear in my mind. I knew they were saying that I was going to make it. That's what made me get up and go."

The third time was a charm. As allied artillery bombed the prison camp, Baumbach sneaked out in the confusion. On the run until March 1951, and suffering with frostbite, he eventually found allied lines.

"I knelt down and kissed the ground and cried," he says.

Through his dedication to duty and the wounds and pains he endured, Baumbach was awarded three Purple Hearts, the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Korean Ribbon, and a Combat Infantry Badge. A POW medal came in the mail. No ceremony. No formal presentation.

"I was very upset when I received the medal in the mail," says Baumbach. "I was upset because there was no commemoration for those who died beside me. I put my medal in a drawer, and I

decided it would stay there until it was presented by someone official."

On Sept. 8, 1991, Baumbach's POW medal came out of the drawer. National Commander Dominic DiFrancesco presented the medal to his old, best friend at Post 594 in Middletown, Pa. DiFrancesco was home after his election to National Commander, and Baumbach was vacationing from his home in Davenport, Iowa. The two men renewed their 40-year friendship, and reminisced about Sept. 21, 1956, the date they were both married in a dual ceremony—Baumbach to his wife, Pat, and DiFrancesco to his wife, Beverly.

"Ray has told me what it was like to be a POW," DiFrancesco says. "He told me about the harsh conditions he had to endure. I admire his spirit."

Baumbach takes the praise with modesty.

"I really don't see this medal as an honor for me," Baumbach says. "I don't need honor or glory. It's for those who didn't make it back. It's for those who were shot beside me or buried in a foreign land."

Baumbach says he follows the POW/MIA issue and hopes that the fates of the more than 8,000 missing from the Korean War and the more than 2,000 missing from the Vietnam War are resolved.

A retired federal government employee, Baumbach, 60, now works in a church prison ministry at the Scott County Jail in Davenport, Iowa. He says that his POW experience in Korea helps him relate to the prisoners.

"I believe the Lord put me through the POW experience so I could help others later in life," he says. □

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Support For Flag Grows

THREE out of four Americans support a constitutional amendment to make burning the flag illegal, according to a Gallup Poll commissioned by The American Legion.

In the November 1991 poll, 77 percent favored an amendment that would make it a crime to burn the flag. This is a 20 percent increase in support for such an amendment, compared to a similar Gallup Poll in 1989. In that poll, 64 percent endorsed a flag amendment.

The poll also showed that most Americans wanted a chance to vote on a constitutional amendment to protect the flag. And a majority of those polled said they would, if given the opportunity, vote for a constitutional amendment "to protect the flag from the physical act of burning it."

"The vocal minority con-

trolling the media cannot stifle the feelings of the men and women across this country who want to see the flag protected," said National Commander Dominic D. DiFrancesco.

Through Legion efforts, 22 state legislatures have adopted memorializing resolutions urging Congress to amend the Constitution and make it illegal to desecrate the flag.

"It's high time Congress listened to the constituency—'We the people,'" said National Adjutant Robert W. Spanogle. "Congress is out of step with the American people when it refuses to send a flag-protection amendment to the states for ratification."

To be ratified, an amendment to the U.S. Constitution must be proposed by two-thirds vote in both the House and Senate, and approved by three-fourths of the state legislatures.

The Legion has pressed

Congress for a constitutional amendment to protect the flag since the 1989 Texas v. Johnson Supreme Court decision. In that case, the Supreme Court ruled that burning the flag was an expression of free speech, protected under the First Amendment.

"The only way to protect the flag is with a constitutional amendment," said DiFrancesco. "Legionnaires, you represent the majority of Americans. Make your voices heard by pressing your state legislatures for memorializing resolutions to protect the flag."

1991 FLAG GALLUP POLL

IN THE November 1991 Gallup Poll commissioned by the Legion, the vast majority of people said a constitutional amendment prohibiting flag desecration would not limit their freedom of expression. Here are the questions and results of the poll:

Do you believe the American people should have the right to determine by vote whether or not the U.S. Flag should be protected from desecration?

Yes 82%

No 16%

Don't Know/Didn't Answer 2%

If put to a vote today, would you vote for or against a constitutional amendment to protect the flag from the physical act of burning it?

Yes 81%

No 17%

Don't Know/Didn't Answer 2%

The act of burning the U.S. Flag is currently protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Do you believe the physical act of burning the U.S. Flag is an appropriate expression of freedom of speech as guaranteed by the First Amendment?

No 77%

Yes 21%

Don't Know/Didn't Answer 2%

The Supreme Court has ruled that neither the states nor the federal government can legally enforce laws enacted to protect the flag from desecration. Do you favor or oppose the passage of a constitutional amendment that would allow federal and state governments to enact laws to protect the U.S. Flag?

Favor 77%

Oppose 20%

Don't Know/Didn't Answer 3%

Do you believe that a constitutional amendment designed to protect the U.S. Flag from desecration would jeopardize your right of free speech, or not?

No 77%

Yes 21%

Don't Know 2%



OPEN DOORS—After a decade of planning and construction, the new Long Island State Veterans Home at Stony Brook, N.Y., admitted its first resident this past October—99-year-old Vahan Dukmejian, center, an American Legion Founder and member of Post 417 of Setauket, N.Y. Accompanying Dukmejian is Post 417 Commander Frank Niglutsch.

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in Genuine Lead Crystal

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Desert Storm GI Bill Receives Strong Backing

A MAJORITY of Americans said they support a WWII-style GI Bill that would give Desert Storm veterans benefits at least equal to veterans of previous wars, according to a Legion-commissioned Gallup Poll.

Of the 1,000 surveyed in a November 1991 poll, 79 percent said they would support such legislation, regardless of cost.

The support for a Desert Storm GI Bill does not surprise The American Legion.

Almost a year ago, the Legion began developing the concept of a new GI Bill—just as it did 48 years ago with the original GI Bill.

At press time, Legion officials in Washington were preparing a new GI Bill for early introduction in this session of Congress. Sen. Dennis DeConcini of Arizona was expected to be the bill's principal sponsor. Legion officials expect to testify on it in congressional hearings this spring.

The new GI Bill would provide education and other

DESERT STORM GI BILL POLL

A NOVEMBER 1991 Gallup Poll, commissioned by The American Legion, found that 79 percent of the Americans surveyed believed that a Desert Storm GI Bill should provide benefits equal to previous GI Bills, and it should be enacted, regardless of cost.

Do you believe Congress should enact a GI Bill for the benefit of Desert Storm veterans which would have benefits at least equal to those given to veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam, regardless of cost?

| | | | |
|-----|-----|---------------|----|
| Yes | 79% | Don't Know | 3% |
| No | 16% | Didn't Answer | 2% |

benefits for Desert Storm veterans that equal the benefits given to veterans from other wars. Currently, Desert Storm veterans receive \$350 per month for schooling. This is only 42 percent of the average cost of tuition at state colleges in 1990-91.

The legislation would also eliminate the \$1,200 co-payment that is now required of active duty service people if they want to participate in the program. In addition, the bill would simplify the existing length-of-service requirements.

Caution Advised Despite U.S.S.R. Collapse

AS THE former Soviet Union disintegrated this past winter, the National Commander of The American Legion warned that too many U.S. defense cuts, too soon, may endanger world peace.

"After all, we are the only superpower left in the world, and the only nation capable of thwarting threats to world peace," said Dominic D. DiFrancesco in a year-end statement to the media.

In addition to premature, drastic cuts in defense, DiFrancesco also expressed the Legion's concern with the control of the Soviet nuclear

arsenal and the danger of unrest among the republics.

"The dissolution of the Soviet Union and the collapse of communism in that region is a momentous and historic event," said DiFrancesco. "The American Legion has long held that communism as a political and socio-economic system was doomed to failure. As the world's largest organization of wartime veterans, whose members fought communism and defended our country against its attempt to achieve world domination, we hail the demise of communism in the former Soviet Union and Europe."

While there is reason to rejoice, DiFrancesco cautioned that communist control in nations such as China, North Korea, Vietnam and Cuba still has not decreased.

"The American Legion hopes for stability in the region of the former Soviet Union, and the emergence of

a form of political and governmental control which is democratic in nature, respectful of individual freedom and human rights, and one that cooperates in the world community of nations, and poses no threat, nuclear or otherwise, to world peace."

.....

D'Arco Honored For Service To Veterans

NEW MEXICO Legionnaire Michael C. D'Arco of Santa Fe won the Melvin T. Dixon Award for being the nation's top Veterans' Service Commission director.

With tireless advocacy for veterans as New Mexico's Veterans' Service Commission director, D'Arco, a member of Post 72 of Santa Fe, was voted the award by other Veterans' Service Commission directors.

The award is presented to directors for outstanding leadership and humane understanding of veterans' needs and problems.

He has served in the New Mexico veterans community since 1975 and has headed the Veterans' Service Commission since 1987.

D'Arco is a past Department of New Mexico Commander and is a member of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission. D'Arco is also one of seven VA&R commission members who represent veterans' interests on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation.

Amazing New Product Gives Crisp, Clear TV Reception WITHOUT Cable!

AS SEEN ON TV

Until recently, the only convenient way to guarantee great TV reception was to get cable installed. But who wants to pay those irritating monthly cable fees? Now, thanks to years of micro-electronic research, a new device has been developed that's so advanced it actually makes all other antennas a thing of the past. It's called the SWEDA™ Power Antenna and is without a doubt "the single most important thing you should own if you have a TV!"

A PICTURE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY!

Just imagine watching TV and seeing a picture so brilliantly clear that you'd almost swear you were there live! Just plug this tiny 2" x 4" Power Antenna into any ordinary AC outlet, connect your TV and get ready for the best reception you've ever had. You'll watch in amazement as YOUR TV set suddenly displays a sharp, focused picture. You literally "won't believe your eyes!" Even older TV sets suddenly come to life. The Power Antenna is so easy to install, so convenient to use, and so incredibly effective that you'll wonder how you ever got by without it!

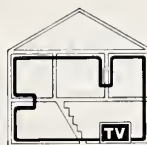
A THOUSAND FOOT ANTENNA?

Power Antenna is a highly sophisticated electronic product (like a transistor radio) with a simple function. It takes ALL the electrical wiring in your house or apartment (hundreds or thousands of feet) and turns it into a

Just plug your Power Antenna™ into any ordinary outlet and watch in amazement as your entire house turns into a giant TV reception station!



BEFORE:



AFTER:

giant TV reception station! It's like having an antenna the size of your entire house! Imagine how effective that would be. But there's more, because Power Antenna takes that signal and electronically boosts it before it gets to your TV set. The results are amazing! Even the weakest, smallest signals come in super strong! You can finally enjoy your favorite prime time shows or sports events the way they were meant to be watched.

WHAT ABOUT MY TV "DISH" ANTENNA?

Return it! Millions of these things have been sold in recent years because people were led to believe they would work like a satellite dish. The truth is that they're no more effective than rabbit-ears, a loop, or rod antenna — and people have been struggling with these things for years! The incredible SWEDA™ Power Antenna makes everything else seem obsolete. Just plug it in and watch it work. There's simply NOTHING ELSE better valued on the market today!

LIMITED TIME OFFER!

Electronic antennas like this



one normally sell for \$50 or more! But now, for a limited time (if you respond before April 10, 1992), you can have the amazing SWEDA™ Power Antenna for just \$19.95. Experience the best reception you've ever had or simply return it within 30 days for a prompt and courteous refund. You absolutely must see it to believe it! ORDER TODAY.

P.S. Works just as good for radio reception too! Limit 3 per order.

RESPOND BEFORE APRIL 10TH FOR THIS SPECIAL OFFER!

YES! Please rush me the following SWEDA™ Power Antenna(s)!

- ☐ One Power Antenna for just \$19.95 plus \$4 P&H.
- ☐ **SAVE \$5!** Two for just \$34.95 plus \$5 P&H.
- ☐ **SAVE \$10!** Three for just \$49.95 plus \$6 P&H.

Enclosed \$_____. VA residents add sales tax.

Payment method: (Check one)

- ☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard
- ☐ Amex ☐ Diners ☐ Discover ☐ Carte Blanc

Card # _____

Exp. Date ____/____/____

Name _____

Address _____

Apt. _____ City _____

State _____

Zip _____

U.S. Buyers Network, Dept. AT4568
One American Way, Roanoke, VA 24016

VETS Replaces VetNet, Adds New, Improved Services

IN MID-FEBRUARY, VetNet, once one of the nation's largest reunions services, was replaced with Veterans Electronic Telecommunications Services (VETS), a new system that will be fully operational by March 1, 1992.

VETS will give veterans the opportunity to get information on military reunions nationwide, simply by calling 1-900-737-VETS (1-900-737-8387).

Why the change? Due to circumstances beyond its control, the company that handled VetNet, Softguard Systems, Inc., went out of business. But a new company, Geotel, was set up to service veterans' reunion needs.

Geotel learned from reunion coordinators and other users of the system about what they liked and didn't like about VetNet. THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine's staff also experienced what worked and didn't work in the old system. The result: a better system. Exit VetNet, enter VETS.

Here's what VETS offers:

- **The most complete information about military reunions.** Reunion information is provided on 1-900-737-VETS (1-900-737-8387) from noon to 8 p.m. Central Standard Time, Monday through Friday. Cost is \$1.95 per minute, with the average call lasting two minutes or less. Proceeds will defray costs and help support American Legion programs.

- **Live operators.** Under the old system, a computer answered the 900 phone calls and there was no way the caller could ask questions or have information repeated. And let's face it, some people still don't like listening or responding to a recording. Geotel, the company handling VETS for The American Legion, has hired disabled veterans to serve as operators and provide you with information.

- **Accepts all phones.** The new VETS system can be used by both rotary (pulse) and Touch Tone phones. Under the old VetNet system, some reunion coordinators and users didn't have Touch Tone phones and couldn't access the system.

- **Double exposure in the magazine.** Thanks to new technology, VETS is now able to publish reunions twice a

year in THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine, upon request. VetNet had a limit of one notice per unit per year.

- **Five-digit code number is optional.** Reunion information can be provided faster if you know the old VetNet number (now called the VETS number) of a military unit. These numbers are printed with the units' names in this section. But now information also can be provided if you only have the name of the unit.

- **Concise, accurate information in less time and no hassle.** Messages in the old system were at times inaudible, and some coordinators spoke too fast or failed to spell names and addresses for callers. Often, callers to the old system had to call back a second or third time, to get all of the information. But with live operators, this no longer is a problem.

- **Only one phone number to remember.** By calling 1-900-737-VETS (1-900-737-8387), you can get all of the information you want on a military reunion. There is no longer any need to call directory assistance first for a five-digit code assigned to a unit. Reunion coordinators also will not have to bother with leaving recorded messages on the system. All they will have to do is write and provide VETS with the information about their unit. VETS will do the rest.

Reunion coordinators are being informed of the new VETS by mail. If you are a coordinator and have not been notified, please write VETS, THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

HOW TO USE VETS

To find out specific information on a military reunion, call

1-900-737-VETS
(1-900-737-8387)

Operators are on call Monday through Friday from noon until 8 p.m. Central Standard Time. Calls cost \$1.95 per minute, with the average call lasting two minutes or less. Proceeds help support American Legion programs.

OUTFIT REUNIONS

Reunion coordinators can enroll their units in VETS by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to VETS, THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Unit names may be published two times per unit per year, upon request.

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Please turn page

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LET'S GET TOGETHER

This column is for notices for the purpose of getting people together to hold a reunion. Notices should be submitted on official forms that can be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to VETS, THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Unit names may be published two times per unit per year, upon request.

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LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded Life Memberships by their posts.

Life membership notices must be submitted on official forms which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Life Memberships, The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206

Wilbur C. Davis, Albert Logan (1992) Post 34, Willows, CA
Graydon Bennert (1991) Post 249, Manteca, CA
Albert M. Aguilar (1991) Post 330, Clearlake Oaks, CA
John P. Murphy (1991) Post 364, Lakeside, CA
Richard J. Hennessey, David M. Swenson (1991) Post 96, West Hartford, CT
John Hoille Allen, Jimmy L. Spencer (1991) Post 50, College Park, GA
Laurence Stete, John Ven Horn (1991) Post 119, Humboldt, IA
Darrel E. Andereen (1991) Post 210, Anita, IA
Robert F. Merck (1991) Post 126, Melba, ID
Leroy L. Rechenmecher (1991) Post 43, Naperville, IL
Lloyd Herkee (1980), Richard Lewson (1981), Alve D. Dunce (1982), Jack K. Coppege (1986), Robert M. Cope, Herbert Martin, Roger Truville, Hiram Whisman (1989), Hecchel Bremeler, Willem Bruther (1991) Post 9, Madison, IN
Willem J. McDonelle, Norman Nyberg (1991) Post 155, Carmel, IN
Willem J. Delaney (1991) Post 279, Gary, IN
Evan P. McGreth, Henry J. Veillecourt (1991) Post 28, Northampton, MA
Donald W. Smith (1982), Duane R. Krueger (1985), Donnevon Ellefeon (1989), Gerald G. Thompson (1991) Post 334, Coon Rapids, MN

CHICAGO CALLS

Continued from page 39

hometowns across the nation.

Shopping is available wherever you turn in downtown Chicago, but that isn't the only appeal. Cultural institutions have always been an essential part of life in Chicago. More than 20 major museums and 30 art galleries help Chicagoans and visitors enjoy the wonders of the world.

One of the most popular museums in the country, and certainly in Chicago, is the Museum of Science and Industry. More than 4 million visitors a year enjoy the hands-on displays of technological advances.

Exceptional exhibits include the Apollo 8 Command Module, a working coal mine, a captured WWII German submarine and a 16-foot-high model of the human heart. As one native Chicagoan said, "You can spend days in the Museum of Science and Industry and still not see everything."

Art lovers will certainly enjoy the Art Institute of Chicago. The internationally renowned permanent collection includes one of the largest impressionist collections in the world.

Chicago also has the world's largest indoor aquarium. The main attraction is the Coral Reef, a glass-enclosed 90,000-gallon water exhibit of more than 350 tropical fish. More than 4,500 fresh and saltwater fish are on exhibit in 190 tanks of various sizes.

The Field Museum of Natural History is another visual treat. It contains over 10 acres of exhibits of anthropology, botany, geology and zoology. Exhibits include enormous prehistoric dinosaurs, full-sized bird and mammal dioramas and precious and semi-precious stones.

Tours are available by bus, helicopter, horse-drawn carriage, bicycle, walking and even by boat.

For those preferring a slower, more restful pace, there are 563 parks and 31 beaches, as well as the Lincoln Park and Brookfield zoos.

In addition, some of the finest restaurants and nightclub entertainment in the Midwest await Legionnaires and their guests who favor the night life.

As the lyrics in that old favorite song "Chicago—That Toddling Town," remind us: "Chi-ca-go, Chi-ca-go, the town that Billy Sunday could not shut down," is as true today as it was when the song was written by Fred Fisher 70 years ago. □

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CONGRESS

Continued from page 37

the opportunity to sit down and grapple with issues becomes more difficult. You can work 60 hours a week and yet accomplish very little.

And these days, the cost of campaigns and all the time that members have to spend raising money and worrying about getting re-elected also takes away from the ability to deliberate and legislate.

Q. Are lobbying pressures becoming harder to handle, especially from single-issue groups?

A. Lobbying is becoming much more intense. But there's an interesting side effect to that. What's happening is that more groups on all sides of all issues are coming forward and finding ways to weigh in on the governmental process. We no longer have as many situations where you have all of business, say, weighing in on one side and labor on the other. Or just one side represented.

Issues come up in which labor and

business are together on one side, but you might have other kinds of interest groups, such as environmentalists, on the other. And that's meant more headaches for lawmakers, because it means more forces they have to juggle in making decisions.

Q. One thing that really angers the public is the pay raises that congressmen manage to get, plus lush retirement benefits, expense accounts, etc. What can be done about that?

A. It may sound odd, but I think we ought to simply index congressional pay to the starting salary for a rookie major league baseball player. That's about where it is right now—just over \$100,000. If you think about it in that context instead of as what the average person on the assembly line or at the check-out counter in the supermarket makes, it comes a little bit closer to reality. We have a \$6 trillion economy and a complex society and all kinds of interests out there that have expertise, money and desire to get their own way over government, and if we don't have smart, capable and trained elected officials, we're going to be the ones who will suffer for it.

Now, there is no question that we will

never have a shortage of people willing to run for Congress, whatever the salary may be. But if we make that salary too low, we'll wind up with a Congress of either millionaires or demagogues, or both. I don't think we can afford that.

Q. What do you think of the proposal to limit the number of terms a congressman can serve?

A. I am strongly opposed. I think the 22nd Amendment limiting Presidents to two terms was a huge mistake. It means that when a President is re-elected, he instantly becomes a lame duck—with his own party descending into bickering about the succession and the opposition party not taking him seriously. As for lawmakers, we already have a way of limiting terms—it's called an election.

Nor do we want to lose our institutional memory among members. Think back to the debate in Congress on the Persian Gulf War—three days and nights of stirring, emotional and gripping debate, with all sides of the issues raised. People coming together to do the thing that's most important if you're a lawmaker—a decision about whether you're going to send your sons and daughters to war.

That debate was far more informed because we had members who had been in Congress when the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution was voted on and because we had members who were veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam. They could talk about it from firsthand experience. Now a term limit wouldn't prevent us from having veterans of World War II, Korea or Vietnam in Congress, but we'd get far fewer of them.

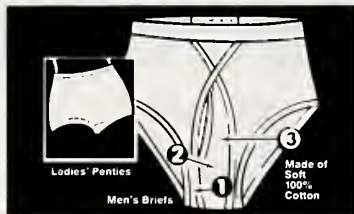
Q. Remembering the leadership provided by Sam Rayburn in the House and Lyndon Johnson in the Senate in getting action out of Congress, isn't there a serious lack of fragmentation now?

A. Ironies abound in Congress these days. We have some of the finest individuals as leaders we've ever had. Tom Foley, the Speaker of the House, is a class act as a lawmaker. So is Bob Michel, the House Republican leader. Likewise Bob Dole and George Mitchell in the Senate. Still, there remains widespread dissatisfaction about leadership, partly because much of the leadership now is in the committees. It's very difficult for party leaders to be able to make decisions when committee leaders can do whatever they want.

Another problem is that we have a

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President who, in domestic affairs, at least, is far more comfortable being a counter-puncher than aggressively pushing his own program. Then, we have congressional leaders who are very effective at both helping Presidents implement programs and at countering what Presidents do. And when you've got two counter-punchers in the ring, each waits for the next guy to throw the punch and so they go round and round in circles.

Q. What's the most serious problem Congress has in coming up with effective action?

A. What you have now is a public that wants action, but doesn't want drastic action; that wants solutions, but doesn't want the pain of paying for them. Under these signals, you're going to have trouble making things happen.

At the same time, I think you've got a skittishness around Congress to take risks, to take the plunge and do something about problems. I'd rather have them make some mistakes grappling with problems like health care and education than being super cautious and deciding that doing nothing is better than doing something that might backfire.

Q. How big a factor in blocking action on national problems is the average member's preoccupation with local issues?

A. Parochial subjects are not what's blocking banking reform, comprehensive health insurance changes, action on the budget deficit, education proposals or the crime bill. The problem is we aren't getting a strong push from the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, and because there's no real confidence in Congress that this or that approach will really make a difference. Remember that Congress is an institution that was designed to be decentralized, balky, slow moving and inefficient. That's what the framers of the Constitution gave us, for better or for worse.

Q. What can be done to make Congress work better?

A. There's a proposal before it now to form a new committee to look seriously at Congress as an institution and think through how to overhaul it in structural terms. Another thing we have to do is find ways to get the party leaders to work better with their committee chairmen in solving major problems. But it also has to involve a change in will on the part of individuals. And

some growth in political courage.

Congress is always going to take criticism, but it would be nice if we could find a way to channel it in a positive direction and make members a bit more aggressively adventuresome.

Q. What can be done about Congress' potentially fatal habit of regularly voting to spend more money than it dares to collect in taxes?

A. There's no easy answer. Congress has tried to come up with structural changes like the Gramm-Rudman

approach and systematizing agreements with the White House. But, again, if there's no will to implement agreements, it won't happen. I believe that Congress can exercise the discipline needed to balance the federal budget if it can get public support. The trouble is that everyone clamors for budget cuts as long as no cuts are made in his own pet program. So when Congress begins cutting, howls go up on all sides. The public is like Pogo in this regard: "We have met the enemy and they is us." □

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POW/MIAS

Continued from page 33

and all of our courageous prisoners of war set free and here back home in America," said Nixon in a speech on May 19, 1973. Did he really believe that?

What about Kissinger?

"Once Kissinger had concluded his discussions and negotiations in 1973, it was a dead issue," concluded Larry Stark, a civilian employee of the U.S. Navy in Vietnam who was taken prisoner by the North Vietnamese. He was a POW from 1968 to 1973.

If the hunt for America's POW/MIAS failed because of politics, can a grass-roots effort help resolve the issue?

Yes, says Captain McDaniel, "if the American people push hard for action. Politicians only react, they don't act."

Gen. Tighe blames the American people for allowing the U.S. government to abandon POW/MIAS in Southeast Asia.

At a congressional hearing on POW/MIAS in 1981, Tighe, then director of the DIA, testified that there were still likely to be American POWs in South-

east Asia. He wonders why the American people didn't jump on the issue.

"The American people wanted more to forget than they wanted to remember," says Tighe with a sigh of disappointment. "It's up to them to decide whether this is an issue or not."

But the American people can only do so much. The POW/MIA issue is a political football.

"It appears that the entire issue is being manipulated by unscrupulous people in the government, or associated with the government," stated retired Army Col. Millard A. Peck, DIA's POW/MIA chief, when he quit his job. "Some are using the issue for personal or political advantage and others use it as a forum to perform and feel important, or worse."

"The sad fact, however, is that the issue is being controlled and a cover-up may be in progress. The entire charade does not appear to be an honest effort, and may never have been."

DoD intelligence reports from the Vietnam War, post-war live-sighting reports and photographs that appear to be of MIAs, have led many people to believe that the United States abandoned some of its servicemen in Southeast Asia. Tighe, Peck and Mooney are among those who believe that.

Since the end of the war in 1973, DoD has compiled about 1,500 first-hand live-sighting reports and 5,000 second-and-third hand reports. According to the Pentagon's "1991 POW/MIA Fact Book," only about 100 of these are considered "believable."

Nevertheless, the thousands of boat people who fled Vietnam came to the United States with information on American POWs. Peck said that the government expends more effort discrediting sources than it does checking out their information.

Despite the Pentagon's dismissal of most refugee stories, many of them reveal compelling, detailed information about U.S. POWs. And many reports corroborate previous sightings.

For example, DoD reports chronicled consistent accounts of U.S. POWs in a prison near the town of Bat Bat, 60 miles from Hanoi, after the war. They cite a high-ranking North Vietnamese policeman who claimed he saw several U.S. POWs inside the camp while he repaired the fence. They also cite a North Vietnamese doctor who said he provided medical treatment for U.S. pilots. Both accounts cover a specific area and were obtained independently.

Another example: A Feb. 23, 1979, Joint Casualty Resolution Center (JCRC) memo reports that a refugee interviewed on Feb. 14, 1979, said she saw Caucasians working on a road in Vietnam's Song Be Province.

The JCRC, established by the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1983, is responsible for pursuing an accounting of American POW/MIAS in Southeast Asia.

According to the memo, the Caucasians told the refugee, "There are 30 Americans kept here. We all need food. If you bring food for us, the American government will reward you."

Refugees have also drawn pictures of POWs, maps of prison camp sites, and given DoD directions to find camps where U.S. POWs may be imprisoned. One refugee even told Pentagon officials the telephone number of a camp possibly holding U.S. POWs.

In addition to refugee reports, photographs of people who could be American POWs have surfaced on a periodic basis since the end of the Vietnam War.

Recently, for example, 17 different photographs of a laborer in Laos circulated in the United States.

Betty and Dan Borah of Olney, Ill., believe these photos are of their son, Navy Lt. Daniel Borah Jr., who was shot down near the city of Quang Tri, Vietnam, in 1972.

Last November, the *Denver Post* published a photograph that looked like

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Res. 291 Defines Legion's Position

Continued from page 27

RESOLVED, that the National Commander appoint a special POW/MIA committee for the purposes of thoroughly reviewing all available information relating to that issue, and investigating all possible avenues of obtaining a full accounting for those who are held prisoner of war or who are missing; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that The American Legion monitor the operation of the U.S. government office in Hanoi for a reasonable period of time, with a view toward supporting the establishment of an independent POW/MIA office if considered necessary; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that The American Legion urge the President to study the feasibility of transferring the responsibility of identifying remains from the Central Identification Lab-

oratory, Hawaii, to the Smithsonian Institution; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that if it is deemed appropriate, American Legion officials be authorized to travel to Southeast Asia, including Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, for the purpose of gathering information relative to the ongoing POW/MIA investigations and the manner in which they are being conducted; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, that The American Legion, while continuing to oppose full diplomatic recognition of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam until the POWs and MIAs are accounted for, also maintain a degree of flexibility with respect to the possible establishment of a U.S. presence in Vietnam and the provision of certain humanitarian assistance if such actions could be helpful in finally resolving this issue. ☐

missing Navy Lt. Larry James Stevens of Canoga Park, Calif., whose plane was shot down in 1969 over Laos.

Colorado State University forensic anthropologist Michael Charney says that the facial features in the POW photograph match facial features from previous photographs of Stevens.

Lieutenant Stevens also may have been in a photograph with two other POW/MIAs that was published in many national newspapers this past summer. The photo shows three middle-aged, Caucasian men, holding a sign with the lettering "PHOTO, LD 25.5.1990., NNTK!, K.B.C.19."

In addition to Stevens, the photo reportedly shows Air Force Col. John Leighton Robertson of Seattle, shot down Sept. 16, 1966 over North Vietnam, who is listed as missing; and Air Force Maj. Albro Lynn Lundy Jr. of Sherman Oaks, Calif., who was listed as killed but body not recovered (KIA/BNR) after his plane was shot down Dec. 24, 1970 over Laos.

None of these photos have been authenticated by the U.S. government. Officials say that most are fakes perpetrated on gullible family members by unreliable sources. Others, like the Robertson-Lundy-Stevens photo, are not proven fakes, but are officially discredited because of their source. A few are still being investigated.

The government's record for mishandling POW/MIA information even

extends to the remains themselves. Here there are questions about our own government's honesty and motives.

Since 1973, 473 sets of bodily remains have been returned, according to the U.S. POW/MIA Affairs office in Hanoi. Some were given over by the Vietnamese, others recovered by U.S.-Vietnamese search teams.

The Army's Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii (CIL-HI) is charged with identifying them and so far has officially identified 310.

But some have accused the lab of another mission: clearing up the MIA books regardless of the evidence. No missing men, no issue.

Too often, say critics, CIL-HI's positive identifications appear to be based on little more than skeletal fragments, if that.

For example, in the mid-1980s different House and Senate committees investigated the lab.

Between 1985 and 1987, physical anthropologist Michael Charney, professor emeritus at the University of Colorado and an internationally known forensic expert, reviewed CIL-HI's identification of 30 sets of remains repatriated from North Vietnam.

However, none were sufficient to identify anyone—positively or otherwise—according to the Helms report.

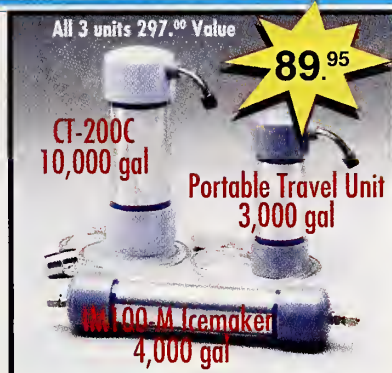
Charney charged the lab with "unscientific, unprofessional work." Its staff

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POW/MIAs

Continued from page 57

"engaged knowingly in deliberate distortion of details deduced from the bones to give credibility to otherwise impossible identification," Charney told the Senate committee.

Another expert who reviewed CIL-HI's work for Congress, George W. Gill, of the American Board of Forensic Anthropology, agreed:

"It is clear from the bones that the problem in the CIL-HI reports results either from extreme carelessness, incompetence, fabrication of data, or some combination of these things."

The Helms report says that the remains of four servicemen, positively identified by CIL-HI, were crossed off the POW/MIA list and buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery in 1990. However, according to family members, two of the caskets were empty. The Defense Department has confirmed this, without explanation, the Helms reported stated.

Why were the caskets empty? Why

would CIL-HI identify unidentifiable remains?

Another forensic expert, William P. Maples, curator of physical anthropology at the Florida State Museum, testified before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on June 25, 1986, after conducting his own investigation at CIL-HI: "I am quite concerned that military remains are identified on the basis of virtually non-existent evidence to account for missing individuals."

But the lab defends its work. Army Lt. Col. Johnnie E. Webb Jr., commander of CIL-HI, said in a letter to the Legion, "We operate under far more stringent internal and external 'quality control' procedures than any forensic identification laboratory in the world."

Webb was responding to Res. 291, passed by the Legion's 73rd National Convention. Among other things, it proposed that the President study moving the lab to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington because of the criticism CIL-HI has received.

Dead or alive, it isn't easy to get information on American POW/MIAs in Southeast Asia. Most of it is class-

ified. In fact, much of this data is so classified that nobody can act on it.

The overall U.S. government policy on POW/MIAs is coordinated through the POW/MIA Interagency Group (IAG), an umbrella organization of government agencies that includes the DoD, the White House NSC staff, the State Department, the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), the DIA and the National League of POW/MIA Families.

Some agencies, like DIA, just collect information and classify it as it comes in. Others, like DoD, are empowered to act on it, if they know about it.

"From the beginning of the [Vietnam] war to about mid-1970, there was a vast amount of information that was suppressed which contained a lot of detail about POWs," says Jerry Mooney, a retired Air Force master sergeant who was an NSA code breaker and intelligence analyst during the war.

"Several thousand intercepts were never properly processed and sent anywhere, except they remained right at the agency level between 1965 and 1970," he told THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine.

"There's a black hole between 1965 and 1970, where none of the data went forward," Mooney says. "So the DIA doesn't even know about it or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) or the State Department."

But problems in the flow of POW/MIA information became more complex in the early 1970s.

In December 1971, the DIA chaired the DoD's Intelligence Task Force, which supervised worldwide intelligence efforts on the POW/MIA issue. While at the spigot of POW/MIA intelligence, the DIA classified information as it was received. This process allowed POW/MIA information to remain in DIA files for months before it was forwarded for action.

"Since POW/MIA information was so highly classified, it did not get to the right people," Mooney says. "Consequently, people died. The data should have gone right to the tactical commanders, the fighter wing commanders, the route infantry commanders," where it could have been acted on immediately.

Mooney says that the information never reached the people who could take action. Most of the POW/MIA intelligence was quickly classified and filed by the DIA.

"I take a lot of the blame for classifying live-sighting reports [of American POWs in Southeast Asia]," says retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Eugene Tighe, director of the DIA from 1977 to 1981, in an interview with THE AMER-

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Legion Guidelines For POW/MIA Committee

Continued from page 31

11. Determine if the Secretary of State ordered the destruction of documents relating to POWs and MIAs by four sub-elements of the department.

12. Ascertain whether or not the Vietnamese have been given classified information on American POW/MIAs.

13. Review the U.S. Army's Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii's (CIL-HI) method in identifying remains.

14. Review DIA's handling of photographs of alleged POWs.

15. Review the allegations of

retired Army Col. Millard A. Peck, who resigned his post as DIA's chief of the Special Office for POW/MIAs last year. He outlined his charges in a memo, given to the Secretary of Defense.

16. Review the findings in "An Examination of U.S. Policy Toward POW/MIAs," a POW/MIA report by the Republican staff of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

17. Fully investigate the books, reports and articles that have been published recently, accusing the U.S. government of disregarding POW/MIA intelligence data collected during and after the Vietnam War. ☐

ICAN LEGION magazine.

"I classified the live-sighting reports from refugees for fear that if the Hanoi government knew I was looking into a specific sighting in a specific place at a specific time—they might get there first," General Tighe says.

The DIA director reports directly to the Secretary of Defense and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Either official can authorize a POW/MIA search, but the DIA cannot act on the intelligence it receives.

"The DIA is not an action-oriented agency," General Tighe confirms. He says that the DIA is primarily a collector of intelligence—classifying it, analyzing it and passing it on to other agencies.

So who can act on POW/MIA intelligence generated by the DIA?

"Whomever the Joint Chiefs of Staff directs to do so," Tighe says. "They can ask any of the services to do it. They can ask all kinds of organizations to do what they want done. But [they should be] organizations that have military action-oriented people.

"We tend to over classify, just in case, because nobody wants to be court-martialed for releasing data that in somebody else's judgment should not have been released," Tighe says.

A QUESTION OF HONOR

The Cold War may be over, but highly classified U.S. government files still hold the last secrets of the Vietnam War, particularly the fate of POW/MIAs.

According to the U.S. Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO), the U.S. government has 7 million classified documents. And only 3 percent of these will ever be released to the public. If World War I troop movements are still classified—and they are—why

would the U.S. government ever release its politically sensitive POW/MIA intelligence?

"What we're trying to do is solve something that's akin to a 20-year-old crime," says General Vessey.

But all the clues are classified.

"It's time for the U.S. government to declassify its information on American POW/MIAs," says the Legion's National Commander, Dominic D. DiFrancesco. "There is no earthly reason why a matter which has been assigned 'the highest national priority' should remain buried in the bowels of our government while more than 2,000 American families are suffering."

The families of 2,267 Americans have something in common: a missing member. And in the shadow of America's longest and most unpopular war—Vietnam—they go through life not knowing what happened to their sons, husbands, fathers and brothers.

Is this a case where our national character is in conflict with our national interest? Has the U.S. abandoned POWs in Southeast Asia?

Today, the fate of America's missing hangs on one issue: the road map, the plan to re-establish relations with Vietnam.

To help rebuild Vietnam's economy with financial aid, trade and diplomatic relations, say some, is the best way to get information on our POW/MIAs.

To others, the road map is a death sentence for America's missing men.

According to Dominic D. DiFrancesco, The National Commander of The American Legion, "To give Vietnam what it wants now, without a full accounting, would seal the last secrets of the Vietnam War. Forever." ☐

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COMMANDER

Continued from page 8

handling this issue, we now have an opportunity to lay it to rest and, at last, bring peace to the families that have lived with and suffered through uncertainty and grief for two decades.

Vietnam's communist economy is crumbling and it thirsts for American dollars to survive. If ever there was a time in our history that we could demand and receive a full accounting, it

is now. That is what we must do before surrendering the only leverage we have.

While it is time for Vietnam to level with us, it is also time for the U.S. government to level with its own citizens.

I think the formation of the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs is a welcomed step in the right direction, and I applaud the integrity of Congress for having established it. I join with every veteran in hoping that it will have a chance to complete its work before our government takes precipitous steps to close this issue without a full and open hearing of the facts.

In the course of its deliberations, we believe it is time to declassify the mil-

lions of documents we have related to our missing and POWs. It is time to reconcile what we know with what we suspect and share that information with the families and the nation.

It's time to study the feasibility of transferring the responsibility of identifying remains from CIL-HI to the Smithsonian Institution to ensure apolitical accuracy.

It's time to thoroughly investigate the more than 1,400 live-sighting reports, and openly and honestly assess them. It's also appropriate for the Select Committee to investigate charges that individuals within the U.S. Government have intimidated, coerced, discredited and ignored sources who have provided data on live POWs.

It's time for us to admit our own mistakes and commit ourselves to an honest effort to honorably close this chapter in our nation's history.

Yes, The American Legion does support normalization of relations with Vietnam. But before we normalize, before we drill for oil, before we lift our economic embargo, before we allow international financial aid—before we do any of this, we must fully account for our missing and our prisoners of war.

Our national character must not be sacrificed for short-term economic gain. To give Vietnam what it wants now, without a full accounting, would seal the last secrets of the Vietnam War. Forever.

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USS Meredith DD-890 Vincent A. Dianella needs witnesses to verify that while at sea in USS Meredith in 1947, he suffered injuries to his left foot when a 5 inch projectile fell on it. Contact CID 1336.

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USS Papago ATF-160 John L. Smith Sr. needs witnesses to verify that while on board USS Papago in 1961, he was injured by a tow cable during a storm. Contact CID 1335.

USS Schenectady Thomas Allen Ludwig needs witnesses to verify that he injured his back while the ship was stationed at San Diego, Calif., February 1977. Contact CID 1333.

LIQUID DIETS

Continued from page 41

Brownell's attack hints at a key truth: Diet evaluation is a very tricky business. One of dieting's great ironies is that "successful" short-term diets can have disastrous long-term consequences, especially for aging Americans. Over-the-counter liquid-diet preparations have been viewed skeptically by some health professionals ever since the late '70s, when crude liquid-protein regimens were linked to at least 17 deaths, mostly from disturbances in cardiac rhythm.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) concedes that today's liquid protein is of better quality, and that greater attention is paid by manufacturers to overall nutritional balance.

Still, there's no minimizing the risks of cutting calories by eliminating most of the solid food from the diet. An individual who slashes his caloric intake in this manner triggers a dramatic metabolic cutback in which his system fortifies itself against perceived starvation. The body may begin metabolizing lean muscle in order to boost its energy reserves, resulting in weakness, dizziness and fatigue. The metabolism slows further as dieting continues, producing an odd biological catch-22: The more you diet, the more you need to diet in order to lose weight. This also explains why crash-dieters tend to gain weight rapidly if they abandon their diets.

Further, marginally overweight individuals who combine a do-it-yourself, meal-replacement program with vigorous physical activity face the risk of burning the candle at both ends. If you don't exercise, according to University of Pennsylvania obesity expert Dr. Albert J. Stunkard, as much as half of your weight loss could be muscle tissue, including heart muscle; if you do exercise, you may overtax your body's limited resources. The danger of muscle loss is compounded for those of us who are not getting any younger.

"There's always bone loss as you age," says leading holistic health practitioner Dr. Norman Beals, "and muscle helps protect bone. So if you're also losing muscle, then you're doubly endangered."

Such problems are magnified by dieting abuse, which occurs frequently with meal replacements. Over-the-counter products carry labels cautioning consumers to monitor their

nutritional balance and never to use the products as their sole sustenance.

But health experts worry that overzealous dieters may ignore the advice. "We have instances where people [on OTC liquid diets] cut their intake down to 300 calories a day," says FDA's Joseph Perret. Added Stunkard, "Without the medical supervision of the hospital plans, you can get into a dangerous situation if you're using the liquid products for all your nutrition." This is especially true for people of middle-age and beyond, who may have underlying, undiagnosed health problems.

Even when the products are used responsibly, there is the matter of efficacy. Diet plans conceived and administered at home clearly lack any counseling element, and evidence is mounting against diets that make no attempt to alter eating behaviors. "If a diet is going to be truly successful," says Brownell, "it has to reshape not only the person's outward appearance, but the person's attitude toward food, and very likely toward himself."

Indeed, even in the hospital plans where counseling is a key factor, the success rate is spotty. "The published studies show that in general, people regain the weight," says the Federal Trade Commission's Dick Kelly, who participated in a congressional investigation of the diet industry.

Case in point: Of some 4,000 patients who volunteered for a supervised meal-replacement program at Newark's Beth Israel Medical Center, two thirds failed to reach their goal weight. And most of the 966 who did—70 percent of the women and 42 percent of the men—were overweight again within 18 months. As is Oprah.

Finally, new scientific evidence indicates that the notorious yo-yo syndrome, in which people are constantly dropping and regaining large amounts of weight, may itself cause permanent metabolic problems.

Which brings us back to our original question: Are meal replacements a reliable means of losing weight?

The answer appears to be a definite maybe. If used carefully by healthy individuals, in strict conformity with product labeling, the better-known, over-the-counter meal replacements may indeed help you shed a few pounds.

Just consider visiting the doctor after each 10 percent drop in weight, as one leading obesity researcher has suggested. And don't be surprised if you need to go on a diet again this same time next spring. □

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VETVOICE

Continued from page 6

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The article about the dynamic and popular Martha Raye was long overdue.

Peter G. Sorrenti
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I liked your article about Martha Raye. But you missed another story—the piano player.

In 1942, when Martha and her troupe went to North Africa to entertain, her piano player became ill. Martha asked, "Can anyone here play piano?" A voice piped up, "I can!" He could! And how!

From then on, Eddie Bigham was Martha's pianist through her World War II travels. That's Eddie seated at the piano in the picture on page 41. A classmate and friend, Eddie played at my retirement dinner last year. He lives in Rosemont, Pa.

Daniel N. Ehart
Wayne, Pa.

Higher Learning

Gerald L. Bepko's article ("Heroes for Education," January) was excellent; he deserves a medal. Because we have been putting down intelligence for so long, very few people know the difference between science and astrology. And this fact is more frightening when we realize such naiveté now pervades our military.

William Hyatt
Cahokia, Ill.

As a high school math and science teacher as well as a school counselor, I find that the typical student only has one parent at home or if there are two parents, both work. Most students don't get much support at home.

John H. Schulz
Big Pine, Calif.

Since World War II, our public schools have failed to teach logic and scientific reasoning. I suspect our teachers were never taught logic and

therefore emphasize rote learning. The result is the flight from science to easy courses.

Melvin B. Goodman
Jacksonville, Texas

Writing Wrongs

It does not take a Rhodes Scholar to understand that PC (political correctness) has been the one and only reason for the deterioration of our morals and learning abilities ("Political Correctness Vs. Traditional Values," January). Look at today's products of our learning institutions. Instead of teaching cultures, race and personal ideas, let's switch back to the three Rs.

Eddie David
Haverhill, Mass.

PC (political correctness) is actually CP (communist policy).

Rodney K. Potter
Hobart, Ind.

Clancy Clash

As an Army veteran of about 24 years and a Persian Gulf War veteran, I disagree with Tom Clancy's view ("The Write Stuff," December) that one Army cavalry regiment would have defeated the whole Iraqi army. With a degree in military history and a student of campaigns and battles for 30 years, I came to the conclusion that if we would have charged across the border into Kuwait as Saddam Hussein thought we would, we would have lost many, many troops.

Steve Hudson
Iron Mountain, Mich.

I have enjoyed reading all of Clancy's novels, and I find them wonderful fiction. But let's face it folks, he's a civilian, who never served a day—hardly a basis for commentary on world events, or the present state of the military. I can hear the same thing standing in line at the bank.

Phillip A. Blanton
USS Saratoga

Hawaiian Thanks

Aloha. This word means a mutual exchange, and National Commander Dominic D. DiFrancesco had such an exchange with Legionnaires when he was in Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1991. We send our mahalo (thanks). From East to West, we are Legionnaires bound by fellowship. Pearl Harbor is remembered, not only today but forever.

James Rowland Jr.
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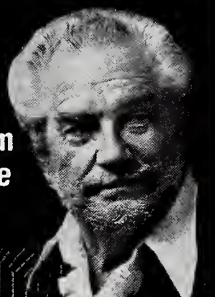
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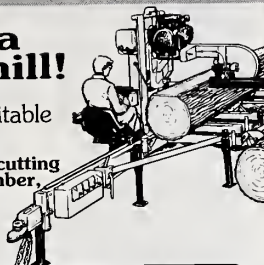
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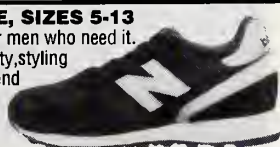
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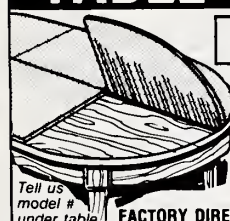
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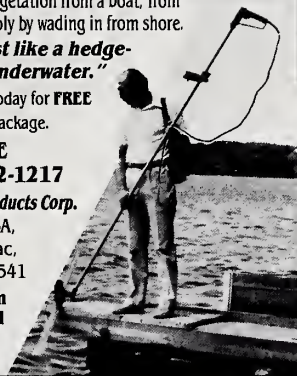
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"Essentially, what I hear you saying is you've resolved your sugar/saccharin conflict, but you're still not secure with your role as a decaf drinker."

Tiger Tale

Two biologists were walking in the jungle when they spotted a man-eating tiger. One biologist dropped to the ground and put on his running shoes.

"That won't help," the other one said, "you can't outrun a tiger."

The other replied: "I don't have to outrun the tiger, I just have to outrun you!"

Politically Incorrect

Politicians are not dishonest. They are just "ethically challenged."

Lotto Money

"I came out \$20 ahead on the lottery this week," Jane told her husband.

"So you finally won, huh?"

"No, I forgot to play."

Sign Of The Times

A few years ago, retailers had "Help Wanted" signs in their windows. This year, the signs just say "Help!"

Money Funny

Time is money—especially over-time.

Busted Busts

The Russians pulled down all those statues of Stalin, Lenin and Marx. So while communism is for the birds, it is no longer for the pigeons.

Worldly Parent

"I'm all the world to my kids," says one parent, "and they think the world owes them a living."

Recession Rumor

Actually, there really isn't a recession going on. It's just a nasty rumor started by 10 million people out of work.

Uncompromising Position

Compromise is not always the best solution. Imagine two negotiators facing each other on opposite cliffs. It would do them little good to meet halfway.

Teen Bug

California farmers are battling with a "super bug." It devours all food, destroys its surroundings, and has no known natural predators. Hmm, sounds a lot like a teen-ager.

IRA, ERA, RBI

Here's a suggestion to strengthen our economy: Shift our currency from the dollar to the baseball card.

College Bound

These days, if you can afford to go to college, there's really no need for you to go.

Light Point

Anyone who says the shortest distance between two points is a straight line never folded a road map.

I Didn't Know That

Ignorance is no excuse. Unfortunately, not too many people know that.

Lazy Daze

One day Joe saw Larry sleeping by a pond with a fishing pole in his hand. Larry's bobber kept disappearing under the water. Once awoken, Larry asked Joe, "Would you mind reeling it in for me?" Joe reeled the fish in. Then Larry asked Joe to take the fish off the hook and bait the hook again.

Flabbergasted at Larry's laziness, Joe said, "You are the laziest man I have ever seen. You should get married and have a bunch of kids to do these things for you."

Larry nodded and said, "I reckon you're right. Do you know where I can find a pregnant woman?"



"Well, I say we either start digging or get out of the way."


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